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FADING ART

Monumental Jain site in T.N. cries for attention

Sittanavasal in Pudukottai district was a major centre of Jain influence for 1,000 years just before the Christian era

SOUTH » PAGE 7

With no viable options available, Punjab farmers stick to paddy

NEWS » PAGE 10

For the PFI, faith is a blueprint for political mobilisation

PROFILE » PAGE 14

Federer's illustrious career draws to a close on an emotional night

SPORTS » PAGE 16

NEARBY

10% hike in fee likely for medical, dental courses

BENGALURU
Students enrolling in medical and dental courses in the State for the academic year of 2022-23 may have to shell out more as a 10% hike in fee is likely.

BENGALURU
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Dasara: Tourism picks up

BENGALURU
As Mysuru decks up for the return of grandeur to the Dasara celebrations, tourists are also packing their bags to witness the glory. Many tour operators have reported at least a 40% rise in bookings to the city in the backdrop of festivals.

BENGALURU
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Delay in election upsets Horatti

BENGALURU
The former Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti is an unhappy man after developments in the BJP forced the postponement of the election process for the Council Chairman's post.

KARNATAKA
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MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Many a hurdle: Tribal children outside their house at Rugudisahi village in Keonjhar district of Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Odisha's 'rich' Keonjhar poor in child health

The district has a high share of the iron ore reserves in the country and is flush with funds meant for welfare needs, but women and infants are struggling to access basic amenities

Satyasundar Barik
BANSAPAL

There are few districts in India that can match the financial muscle of Keonjhar in Odisha. Yet, the district suffers the ignominy of having the highest number of stunted, underweight children and anaemic pregnant women among the 30 districts in the State.

After losing two sons soon after their births successively in 2020 and 2021, 29-year-old Sisira Dehury was determined to save her third child this year.

She undertook a 20-km autorickshaw ride from the remote Emiri village under the Bansapal block of Keonjhar and spent two months at a *maa gruha* – maternity waiting home – prior to her delivery.

All her efforts to save the child, however, proved futile when her five-day-old died in the special newborn care unit (SNCU) of the District Headquarters Hospital, Keonjhar, on September 18. Ms. Dehury said, "I could not breastfeed my son before he closed his eyes."

Similarly, doctors at the hospital could not save Jayanti Chatamba's three-day-old, who was referred there by a private nursing home. Authorities said the infant died of sepsis and associated complications on September 17.

In the SNCU, four newborns died in a span of 48 hours recently. It is alleged that parents lost 13 newborns at the hospital between September 1 and 18. The report of an inquiry conducted by the chief district medical officer (CDMO) stated, "Considering the individual case findings, it was found that the babies were critically sick. All necessary treatments available with the hospitals were provided to them to save their lives. There was no evidence of negligence in the management process and the death of the babies has been due to the disease process and its complications." The CDMO has now been transferred.

But, parents have refused to accept the findings of the probe, claiming instead that there were not enough doctors to attend to the babies in the hospital.

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Tharoor set to file papers this week

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Shashi Tharoor, Lok Sabha member from Thiruvananthapuram, will file his nomination for the Congress presidential election towards the latter part of next week after mobilising support of delegates from different parts of the country, sources told *The Hindu*.

On Saturday, the day when the process of filing of nominations started, Mr. Tharoor's close aide, Aalim Javeri, collected the nomination form from the office of Madhusudan Mistry, who heads the party's Central Election Authority (CEA).

The developments virtually confirm what *The Hindu* reported on September 20 that the Congress presidential election would be a contest between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Mr. Tharoor, one of the members of the G-23, or the ginger group that has been pushing for internal reforms in the party.

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Rajasthan CLP meeting today

Amid the buzz over a leadership change in Rajasthan, the Congress has called a meeting of its legislature party on Sunday.

FULL STORY
» PAGE 9

Circle inspector attacked by ganja peddlers, critical

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Circle inspector of police Sreemanth Illal, who was attacked by a gang of over 40 ganja growers and smugglers near the Karnataka-Maharashtra border in Bidar district late on Friday, is critical in a private hosptial in Kalaburagi.

The officer was first taken to a nearby hospital at Basavakalyan in Bidar and later shifted to United Hospital in Kalaburagi by 4.30 a.m. on Saturday.

Hospital sources said that eight ribs of the officer were fractured, and as a result, the lung was damaged. He had also suffered head injuries, they said.

On ventilator

The officer has been put on ventilator. On Thursday, the Kalaburagi police had arrested ganja peddlers - Naveen Mangal Upadhyaya, a native of Kalaburagi, and Santosh, from Bhosga in Basavakalyan - in Kamalapur taluk.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 5

Inert rhinos rise from ashes at Kaziranga

The remains of a stockpile of 2,479 horns burnt in September 2021 were used for building three life-size statues to serve as a memorial to the herbivore and the forest guards that protect it

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Three lifeless rhinos have risen from the ashes of the most conspicuous part of the herbivore, at the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday unveiled a memorial to the greater one-horned rhino and the forest guards the 1,300 sq. km tiger reserve owes its existence to.

The ash collected from the burning of a stockpile of 2,479 rhino horns, seized from poachers and smugglers and collected from animals that died naturally, was used in the concrete mix to create the life-size rhinos - a 10.5-foot-long and 6-foot-tall male, an 11x5.6 foot female and a 3.5x1.5 foot calf.

Close bond: The 'Abode of the Unicorns' at the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"History was created when hundreds of rhino horns, stored in 12 treasuries across the State for decades, were consigned to flames on September 22, 2021, to send a strong signal to those involved in illegal wildlife trade," Mr. Sarma said.

The stockpile of horns was also burnt to demonstrate that rhino horns have no medicinal value, he added.

"The ash collected has been used to create these three rhinos immortalising the efforts of those who selflessly protect Assam's rhinos," the Chief Minister said.

Jatindra Sarma, Kaziranga's director said 128.56 kg of ash collected after the burning of the horns a year ago went into making the three rhinos.

The rhino horn ash was not used for the statues of an equal number of forest guards, many of whom have died in the line of duty, some combating poachers.

The memorial named 'Abode of the Unicorns', which took six months to complete, is at Mihimukh, the main entrance to the park in Kohora, one of the five ranges of the Eastern Assam Wildlife Division. Kohora is about 200 km east of Guwahati.

India on side that respects UN charter: Jaishankar

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

Addressing the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Saturday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar explained India's position in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, saying India was on the side that respected the UN charter and on the side of peace.

The Minister also made a strong pitch for UN Security Council (UNSC) reform.

Mr. Jaishankar said India was often asked which side it was on in the Ukraine conflict. "And our answer, each time, is straight and honest," he said.

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BJP expels father, brother of Uttarakhand murder accused

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In the wake of massive protests following the murder of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari, allegedly by the son of a former Minister, the Uttarakhand BJP expelled the father and the elder brother of the accused from the party on Saturday.

The Uttarakhand police on Friday arrested Pulkit Arya, son of Vinod Arya – who was the Minister of State under the previous BJP government – for allegedly murdering the woman who was working at his resort.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami ordered demolition of the resort owned by the accused, who was reportedly forcing the girl into prostitution. Pulkit Arya's elder brother was removed from the post of nominated vice-chairman of the State's OBC Commission.

'Quick' action: The resort belonging to the son of ex-BJP Minister Vinod Arya which was partially demolished by authorities. PTI

Ms. Bhandari went missing while on duty on September 18, said the police. The body was recovered from the Chilla canal in Rishikesh on Saturday.

Resort manager Saurabh Bhaskar and assistant manager Ankit Gupta were also arrested.

Alleging delayed action by the Patwari (Revenue) police, protesters attacked the accused while they were being taken to jail.

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Morning stroll: This six-year-old cheetah glides through the grass at Masai Mara national reserve in Kenya in search of prey. An unsuspecting herd of wildebeest is grazing not too far away.

Rare shelter: The striking landscape of the home of the spotted felines in Masai Mara has two predominant varieties of vegetation — the first one is the golden savannah grass and the other is the umbrella thorn acacia tree, which gives a unique identity to the reserve.

African safari

Athletic and agile. Patient yet persistent. Two cheetahs in the Masai Mara national reserve in Kenya show how a successful hunt is accomplished.

Photos by Ramesh Susarla
ramesh.susarla@thehindu.co.in

Cheetahs require large expanses of land that can support prey and suitable cover to thrive. One such habitat is the famed Masai Mara, a large game reserve in Kenya, named in honour of the Masai tribe. These big cats live in groups called coalitions and the Mara was home to a coalition of five male cheetahs that lived together since 2016. The coalition – named 'Tano Bora' or 'The Magnificent Five' – dwindled to just two after three of the cheetahs died between December 2020 and July 2022. A series of pictures taken during the first week of August this year features a hunt by the two survivors.

During the 'Great Migration' period from mid-July to mid-September, prey is plentiful as lakhs of wildebeest, zebras, and medium-size ungulates such as impala, springbok, and Thomson's gazelles migrate from the Serengeti in Tanzania.

That August morning, the cheetah duo strode to a vantage point to identify their target – a young wildebeest that stood over two km away in the Savannah grassland. With enormous patience and focus, and unperturbed by the movement of other animals, one of them made the first move after a 20-minute wait. Then, the cheetahs stealthily slid through the greenish-yellow tall grass to the nearest thicket.

The stalking began, slowly and steadily. Within an hour, they were just 400 metres from the prey. The final assault came from two different directions, startling the target and allowing no scope of escape. In the melee, the juvenile wildebeest gets separated from the herd.

The cheetahs pounce. The wildebeest falls.

Close watch: The undulating landscape offers perfect camouflage for the spotted cat, as it settles down at a vantage point to keep a track of prey movement. This cheetah sits behind a mound that hides it from the herd of wildebeest a short distance away.

Classifieds

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COSMOPOLITAN

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GOVT / QUASI GOVT

PSU EXECUTIVE, Asst Mgr, B.Tech, PGDM, 32/160, Vanniyar/CNB, Chennai, 9488549285

MALAYALAM

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VISWAKARMA TAMIL Gold Smith girl from Kerala B.Tech, Age 27, 169 Cm, employed IT Bangalore, seeks alliance from parents of educated employed boys from similar status. 9995953267

NAIR GIRL @Chennai 26/147 BE Chadayam/ Chevva Dosam Seeks Grooms Nair/Menon Family 9840944880/ 9447696424

HINDU NAIR 28/170cm, Grade A Bank Officer, Bangalore.Seeks suitable Alliances from Parents of Nair Youths having PAN India Job. Ct:8547629425

AUSTRALIAN DOCTOR girl 25 fair and good looking from affluent family with liberal values seeks groom from similar minded doctors/ Dentists/ Professionals. Preference to those from Australia, UK or Newzealand. Should be willing to relocate to Australia. WhatsApp +61450634778

GROOM WANTED

Malayali Girl,Varma (Thamburatty) 27/152(Thiruvathira), Fair, strict Veg. Thripunithura native, MSc.Phy, CMA Supervisor (In J.E. Cadre) in Bangalore Railway, Bangalore own apartment seeks Veg., well qualified groom, preferred from same caste having central govt or PSU job only.
Contact:9495467820

TAMIL

SINGAPORE Based Christian bride, 34yrs M.E., S/W Engr, working seeks groom fr IT/Engr.W.App: +6588704764

CSI PROTESTENT 27, ME/MNC Bangalore, Slim, Fair Pretty Girl Seeks Well Qualified Boy. Ct: 6379397599

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TAMIL

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HINDU SOZHIYA Vellalar 38/160cm MBBS Govt, Divorcee (No Child) Seeks MBBS, PDS, PG Suitable Groom (No Child) Good Family. Contact : 96773 00179 & 80153 33556

Hindu Nadar, 30/166, V.Fair, B.E, M.S working in Australia pooram, simmam Seeks Abroad Emplyed Groom, 63695 74495. ish.anbalagan@gmail.com

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 24/165, V.Fair & Beautiful, B.E, M.S (UK),Data Analyst, MNC, London, Business Family, Seeks groom Any Abroad / Business – 8925019776

AGAMUDAYAR 27/160 Fair Sadhayam Ragu Kethu CTS 8 L PA Seeks Suitable Bride Groom from Mudaliar/Pillai/Vellalar Ct: 8639158928/ 9942351785

VANNIYAR 28 PhD mirugaserisham midhunam meenam lagnam, seeks appropriate groom. Contact: 9791852050

BRIDEGROOM INVITED for well settled Saiva pillai PG Doctor 28 yrs. Preferable doctor or other highly qualified professional. Mail id: mullaipoo72@gmail.com

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HINDU NADAR 25/154 Swathi Fair BDS Doctor, Coimbatore Seeks Suitable MBBS, MDS, BDS, BE Groom Age 25–27years. CT: 9944491730, 9159036165. Email: rajashanthi15@gmail.com

MUDALIAR 28 165cm BTec MS Kirthigai Ch seeks PG UK employed Groom only CNB Geetham 9884858014

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TAMIL VISWAKARMA (Goldsmith), 1985, Star - Revathi, B.E., M.S, SWE, Netherland seeks suitable SWE Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact: 90250 86887 (W) / 80565 26218

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T. V. Mudaliar 32 / 165, Software Engr, Neelson IQ 25 lakhs/PA, Swathi seeks Engr/Dr. Bridegroom from Mudaliar, Pillai, Naidu. Contact - 94878 70179

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TAMIL

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HINDU MUTHURAJA, 28 / 155 / BE / Software Engineer in UK.Seeks groom in UK or willing to go to UK. Caste No bar. 99444 00307, 89034 21862

PILLAI, 26/165cm / BE, MBA (IIM) good looking fair girl / Chennai / MNC / 21 LPA. Seeks IIM / IITcian / Group A Officer / Doctor Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact : 99941 13213

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ARUNTHATHIYAR, 25/152, BE, Chennai, Star Magam,Seeks Groom Govt Employee, Swe,Banks 9487303638/ 9443521217

WANTED GROOM

Hindu SC Adidravida, BDS, 23, 158 cm Kadagam, Poosam, preferred MBBS/Group 1 officer from Adidravida Community.
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arajagopal.mmtc1960@gmail.com
94449 44562

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TELUGU

ELITE BALIJA Naidu 25/BE own Jewellery & Diamond factory Rich family seeks suitable groom Ct: 7200259760.

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BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

TELUGU SC Mala groom, 29, 175 cm, good looking, B.Tech and Masters, from well to do educated family, working in U.K. , seeks educated beautiful bride between the age 23–27 from an educated family. Caste or language no bar. Christians can also apply. Send bio, photo to raagaswara07@gmail.com, 8328645024. No brokers.

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BRIDE WANTED

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TAMIL

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CHRISTIAN PROTESTANT 27/180cm, BE, M.B.A, Technology Analyst, Chennai Seeks Employed/ BDS. Ph: 9962533637. Mail: manjukishor156@gmail.com

CSI NADAR, 30yrs / 179cm, M.Arch (Architect) Project Manager in Chennai Pref-Architect or Designer seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 94885 22344

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ELITE GROOMS WANTED

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THIYYA 36 Years, Chithira, 5.10"well Placed Worli Mumbai, parents Thalassery seek educated girl Kozhikode call 9349025585

TAMIL

DIVORCEE RC– Christian 35yrs/ 171 Cms. B.Sc. Hotel Mgmt. working in Cruise Ship 10L/PA. seeking suitable Bride without Child. Ct: 8825924783

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Private Doctor good looking lives in Nagercoil, Innocent Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/ Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230.

IIT6'2 Handsome Mudaliar Boy born in Nov 91 Working in Top MNC in Hyderabad Sal 60 lacs seeks Engineer/ CA/Doctor 5 .4' > Tamil, Telugu Contact : 7382620365.

TAMIL

IYENGAR–VG, N.KASHYAPA, Karthigai, 1975, Double Post Grad. Cln Habs, Dcnt Inc, Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bhmn/Veg Bride For 1st Marriage. Ct: 9025085295 / kannanr3855@gmail.com

COIMBATORE, MBA 39yrs, legally divorced, no kids, 10 Lakh per annum MNC job. Expects qualified, slim & short girl desires to settle in Coimbatore. Call: 98431 69594, 94430 60030.

PILLAI/ MUDALIAR 27/180 Handsome BE, MBA, Industrialist, Leading Manufacturer of PVC Pipes & Water Tanks, Elite Family, Madurai Seeks Good looking Bride/Any degree– 8939012419

NAIDU TAMILNADU parent seeking bride for their MBBS sons aged 25, 23 for early marriage and pursue studies, career together. 98656 04108

SEER KARUNEEGAR, 30/195cm, MS, MBA, Vegetarian employed in US, seeks a tall qualified Pillai / Brahmin girl. Contact 8879005767

SEEKING BRIDE For Fair 28yr Brahmin Boy. Iyyengar. Bharadhwajam. Mirgashirsham. B.SC. Own Business. Well Propertied At Kumbakonam. Interested To Relocate Anywhere. Ph – 9443154916

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, Venduvan Kulam, BE, MBA, 30Yrs,5.7" , Smart, Software Profession at CHENNAI, Divorcee, only Son for Agri family, own fertile lands and House near SALEM, seeks suitable bride from good family. Ct: 9626180162

HINDI

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9324433072 9841060505
Mail: vinu0406@gmail.com

TAMIL

CASTE NOBAR 40/164cm Teamlead 15LPA MNC Bangalore contact 9742224560 chockalingamp@gmail.com

SENGUNTHAR CHENNAI 29/183/ ME Structural Engr Kanni Hastham seeks Business/ Professional family from Mudaliyar/ Pillai/ Yadava. 7550250911

YADAVA 39, MBA, GM–Sales@Pvt. Ltd, Salary 1.25L/Month, Caste No Bar, Matrimony ID M8821922 Ct: 8610014920

30, FAMILIAR Singer/ Music Faculty/ Divorcee/Music Family Veg Seeks Musician/Music Interested/Educated Bride from Simple Family 9092667808

ELITE MUDALIAR 28/ BE owns 100 buses Rich family seeks Rich bride Ct: 7200261495

LONDON BASED RC boy 29 yrs/175 cm/B.Tech placed in senior position looking for an alliance from suitable brides.Interfaith no bar. Contact 9381041068.

NADAR, CASTE No Bar, 26, 180cms, BBA, Enterpreneur, Chennai. Family is Affluent . Seeks a well Placed & Good Looking Bride. Ph: 98400 48781.

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR 30/173 /60LPA MS (ENGG) Area Manager Amazon Canada.Dhanush/Uthradam.Teetotaller. Only son,rich Family. Looking for girls below 27 yrs. Whatsapp 9446004604

CA, AUDITOR, FCA, 32 / 167, veg, fair, good looking, clean habits, affluent, traditional family with modern outlook, seeks chennai based bride, 9655826250

HINDU, BE/31/SC –Caste No Bar/Ayillam–Katagam/Bangalore settled . Seeks Bride below 28yrs from well settled and educated family. Contact 9845401461.

HINDU PALLAR Bride groom aged 27 Avittam Kumbham MS in Electronics from Honkong.Now working for a USA MNC in Bangalore. Father retired Senior Bank Executive retired. Looking for a suitable bride. 73058 57096

ALLIANCE INVITED for fair Thevar boy 40 years BE / MBA employed in Corporate sector Chennai from well educated employed girls from cultured family. Caste no bar Contact 82484-09022

TAMIL

MUDALIAR 29, BE/MBA, 22lacs PA, 176cm, Smart, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB, 8778514465/ 7200866346

NAIDU / 33,Own Business, Looking for suitable bride with good family background. Caste no bar. 9342481126

KANCHIPURAM MUDALIAR 53 Ph.D divorcee no issues returned from abroad sk suitable bride around 40 pref issueless 9500367269 sbkkeck@yahoo.com

VELLALAR NV 40/176 Divorcee no kid PG Sr. Mngr Bank, Singapore Seeks educated bride willing to relocate preferred. Whats app Only 9751261579

✔ TIRUNELVELI SAIVA pillai 28yrs 175cm B.Tech(NIT Trichy) Engineer Officer Hindustan Petroleum Govt Visakhapatnam 18LPA Avittam Kumbham seeks well educated bride from same caste 9841773365/9003177050

PROFESSIONAL, 30YEARS 185 cm. Currently working in Germany as a Senior Logistics Program Manager after MS in US. Employed in U.S.A for 4 years and two years in Dubai. Well Settled Family. Star Hastham & Backward Community. Seeks well Educated, Hindu Bride (Caste No Bar) for their only Son. Mobile 9840041041

YADHAVAR, TAMIL, 13–11–89, Sal. Rs. 1 Lacs, Divorced, NO Issue, Ambattur, Ct : 8015136228

MITHUNAM THIRUVADIRAI 29/180 BE MBA Smart IT Seeks Homely, Educated, Mingle with join & Well Settled Family. SC Caste no bar Ct 8778546961 / Kalavathynatesan6953@gmail.com

VANNIAR, 43/177 MA, MBA, 1 Lakh P.M, Unmarried, CNB. Seeks Good Looking Educated Bride. 73586 98406

Saiva Pillai 27/ 180 M Tech Biotechnology Research Scientist Bangalore / well Educated Employed Parents seek suitable Educated Employed Bride Contact: 8220445782.

MUDALIAR, 44/168, Own Business, 65000pm, Well Settled Seeks Bride from Well Settled Family. 9962582006.

VANNIYAR 29/172CM Swathi/ Fair, MS, USA Employed, seeks Educated suitable bride. Contact: 9444678830.

AGAMUDAIYA MUDALIYAR, divorce, 40, Mirugasiridam, 170cm, Slim, Ph.D, Govt. Job, 1.10 lakh p/m, 7904550883.

IYER BOY 28/182. Finance Analyst in US Co.at Bangalore. 12 LPA Seeks Employed Brahmin Bride 7828151751

SEEKING MATCH for 37, 6' Tamil Hindu Brahmin Boy, Working for a top IT organization in Australia and on a Permanent Resident visa Girl should be Hindu Vegetarian please contact +91 95001 89609 or aravind7778@gmail.com for more details

IYER,VADAMA 41 Years, Self Employed Chartered Accountant in Erode. Having own house and earns 25LPA. Right leg slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need Suitable Bride. Call 9994934568

IYER BOY 28 yrs Pooram.6 feet ht. Tech lead in Capgemini Rs.17 L p.a 9884510708

SEEKING BRAHMIN Bride willing to be Homemaker for our Son, MS (CS) USA, 27yrs/178 cms, Iyer, Koundinyam, Vegetarian, No Smoking, No Drinking. Rich or Poor Family does not matter.Ct: Whatsapp: +1 732 372 8410

BRAHMIN 33/182CM BE,MBA MNC HR professional 8lac pa seeking suitable Brahmin educated bride (vegetarian only). Contact 7667724406

IYER BRAHACHARANAM/ Koundinyam/Avittam/88 June working in Bangalore in a pvt firm getting 4L PA seeks employed bride. Ct: 9443132445.

Bride Wanted

Brahmin Tamil Bride Professionally Qualified Wanted for Iyer, Vadama, Srivatsa, Pooram, Fair, Tall, Teetotaller, 27 years, Affluent, B.E., M.B.A (IIM-A) Employed in Bangalore
Ct: 94440 85930 / 90927 92477

TAMIL

SOUTH INDIAN BRAHMIN BRIDE WANTED

IYER BOY (35 years / 177cm, Fair, Kettai, Haritha Gothram, Vadama), B.E., working in Singapore in IT industry. Family well settled in Singapore.
Prefer bride below 30 years, fair, graduate and good family back ground. Subsect & region no bar.
What's app details to: +65-9154-7135

SRIVATSAM, (T) Visakam 37yrs BE, MNC Chennai Seeks Graduate Girl Ct: 98847 51601

IYER VADAMAL Bharadhwaja Kanni/ Hastham 32, B.Tech, IT, Chennai, Rs.80,000/- pm, Own House. Seeks Suitable bride, Subsect No Bar. Contact: 9962478809

BRIDE WANTED

A High Profile, Well - Established (Business) Family in Chennai, Looking for a Beautiful, Tall, Cultured Girl for their Tall, Suave, Humble and Caring 29 Year Old Son.
secretarytanya410@gmail.com
80726 23211

31 / 164cm, ME., Assistant Professor Chennai Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/Divorcee-no issue, Naidu, Mudaliar /Pillai /Reddiyar/Chettiar Pref Contact: 94430 52596/ 94456 89306

TELUGU

TELUGU KAPU boy, age 28, height 6ft 1inch, B.Tech from IIT Kanpur, Gazetted Group A officer in Govt of India posted at Mumbai seeks alliance. Contact 9453045661.

NAIDU M30 Poosam 6.1 Fair M.E., Ph.D.Seeks Bride Fair Slim Well Qualified with Good Family Ct:9944533545

SUITABLE WELL–EDUCATED and employed bride wanted for GAVARA naidu boy Maham/29/165/ working for IT industry at CHENNAI. Pl send horoscope and details to mr.lathaarun@rediffmail.com/contact 09445509861/09442446311.

HINDU TELUGU Balija Naidu Avittam 32 ME SWE 24L PA seeks Prof.qualified same sect bride Ct : 9952781602.

BALIJA 28/180CMS, Magam, Simma Raasi/ BE/ M.S (GER) Working in Germany 42Lpa, Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride– Sub Sects No Bar. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

TELUGU

ELITE RICH Balija Naidu 28/B.Tech.,Own Colleges Etc, Settled Family Seeks Bride. Ct: 72002 59760

NAIDU 29/175 Handsome,B.Tech,Tech–Specialist,MNC,18.Lac.PA,Well Settled Family,CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

KAMMA NAIDU 48/186 Sadayam, MCA Divorcee No Issues, IT Proj Mngr , Clean Habits. Seeks Bride. 8248522648

ALLIANCE INVITED

from Dr/Er Bride below 38, 1st or 2nd issueless for Engineer groom belongs to rich business decent Naidu family Chennai. CNB
Ct: 94450 21512

TELUGU BOYAR 49/170 Widower, No issues Seeks bride below 37-43 yrs, any degree CNB - Ct: 9444950542

Telugu-madiga-39yrs, B.tech SWE working in USA. Looking for suitable bride. Ph-93908 45532.

URDU

SMU SHEIK, 47 yrs, B-Tech superintendent in Saudi Mech-Engg. Namazi, clean habits, caring person, seeks a Soulmate PIOUS with family values. CT: 73396-80768.

SMU SYED, 26/5ft 8inch, B.E,MBA, Engineer in Qatar, family in TN seeks Urdu Syed/Sheikh Graduate bride from TamilNadu. 9443841019

SMU 38/5'8" M.E MNC seeks any graduate fair unmarried bride Whatsapp Bio and photo to 8925663049, 7639384846.

SUNNI MUSLIM Boy(27yrs) BE MS working in USA seeks fair bride BE MS(USA) or BE.Ct: 91765 00652

DIVORCEE, MUSLIM, 39 Professor No Parents, Kids, Wanted Never Married bride Call: 9342585072

SMU, 32/170 BE,MBA, Busi.consultant IT Co. Chennai seeks Moral Educated Bride from Good Family. 8122989086

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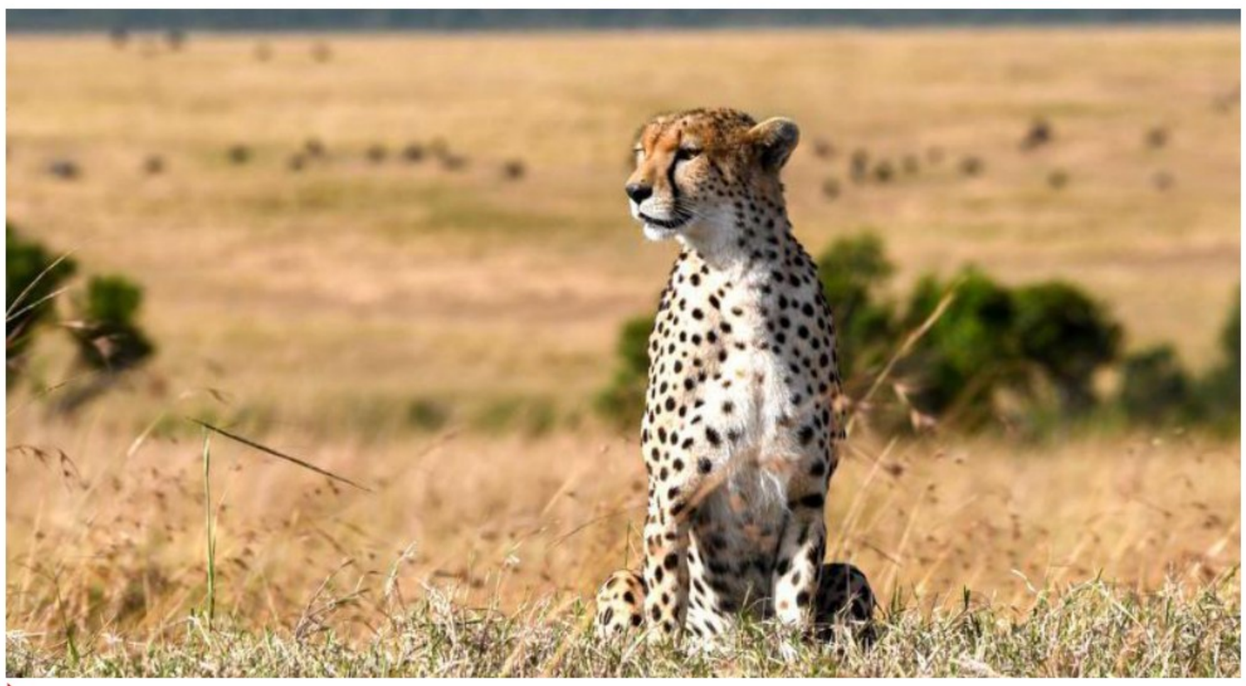
LOTUS HOSPITAL, Erode. Wanted. Neurologist, Anaesthetist, Emergency Physician, Electrical & Maintenance Engineer with Hospital Experience. lotusgm@rediffmail.com, 9843422828



On alert: Cheetahs are fast but their patience is the key to a successful hunt. One false move and the prey can be startled and move away. This big cat sits perfectly still, but for the slow blink of an eye or a twitch of the tail.

Magnificent two: The surviving duo of 'the magnificent five' hunt together to increase their chance of catching prey. Not long ago, they were part of a five-member coalition, as a group of cheetahs is known.

Group strategy: The wildebeest are a kind of antelope that traverse the grassland in search for the best pasture. They often graze in mixed herds with zebra, which gives them more awareness of potential predators. Their safety lies in the strength of the herd and the young are protected by the adults.

Forces of nature: A young wildebeest, which got separated from the herd, falls prey to the cheetahs. The big cats spring from different directions, attack the antelope at the neck and pin it to the ground.

Keeping it clean: A white-backed vulture descends on the wildebeest carcass. Vultures around the world face the threat of becoming extinct. They provide an invaluable 'clean-up' service to the environment and are an important part of the food chain. White-backed vultures are found in open wooded savanna and scattered trees, such as areas populated by acacia.

Lofty outlook: The Mara is home to a wide variety of other species of wild animals, including the giraffe. The tallest of land animals, the giraffe has plenty of fodder in the reserve. Typically, the male giraffes eat from the top branches of the acacia trees and the females eat from the bottom branches.

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INTERNATIONAL BRAND

DIRECT BRANDED GARMENTS COMPANY SALE

Only 2 Days 25th & 26th Sept.'22

at Hotel Ajantha & Sri Gururaja Kalyanamantapa of Bengaluru

The stock has been arranged collectively from many of the premium Malls and showrooms of India.Due to pandemic lookdown owners of these Malls & showrooms have mutually taken this decision. The entire stock will now get encased directly to the retail consumers at Hotel Ajantha & Sri Gururaja Kalyanamantapa of Bengaluru

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All the above mentioned Premium International Brands will be now sold at:

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2. The counter of the garment which is expired will be closed immediately
3. No suitcase or bag will be allowed inside the hall.

Offer Only 2 Days 25th & 26th Sept.'22

VENUE: 1)
Hotel Ajantha
M.G. Road, Trinity Circle Metro Station, Bangalore

VENUE: 2)
Sri Gururaja Kalyana Mantapa
Crescent Road, 21, Hare Krishna Rd, High Grounds, Next to Karnataka Filim Chamber, Shivananda Store, Bangalore.

Sale Time: 10am to 9.00pm (Sunday Open)

ENTRY FREE
The Venue(s) are 100% Safe and sanitized to highest standards
PARKING FREE

10% hike in fee likely for medical, dental courses for this year

Private medical and dental college managements have been demanding a 15% increase in fee

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Students enrolling in medical and dental courses in the State for the academic year of 2022-23 may have to shell out more as a 10% hike in fee is likely.

While private medical and dental college managements have been demanding a 15% hike, sources said the government has decided to increase the fee by 10%. The principal secretary of the Department of Medical Education held the fourth meeting with private college representatives on Friday evening to discuss the issue. The consensual agreement is expected to be signed on Monday between the State government and private medical and dental college managements.

According to the consensual agreement, there is a provision to increase the MBBS and BDS courses fee by 15% to 25% every year. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government had not permitted a hike in fee for two years. The private institutions said in the meeting that they are suffering from a financial crunch and an increase in the fees for the MBBS and BDS courses is unavoidable. Sources said government representatives convinced the college managements to agree for a 10% fee hike.

Owing to the pandemic, the government did not allow fee hike for two years.

M.R. Jayaram, Honorary Secretary of Karnataka Private Medical and Dental Colleges Association, told *The Hindu*, "Private medical and dental colleges are suffering from a financial crunch. Therefore, we put our demand in front of the government to increase the medical and dental courses fees up by 15%. But, the government is delaying its decision. We are also waiting for the government decision in this regard."

CCB arrests peddler, recovers ₹10 lakh worth of drugs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested a drug peddler and recovered 50 g of MDMA and 17 g of ecstasy tablets worth ₹10 lakh from him.

Based on a tip off, a team of police raided a place in K.S. Layout and arrested the accused red-handed while he was waiting for his customers to deliver the goods.

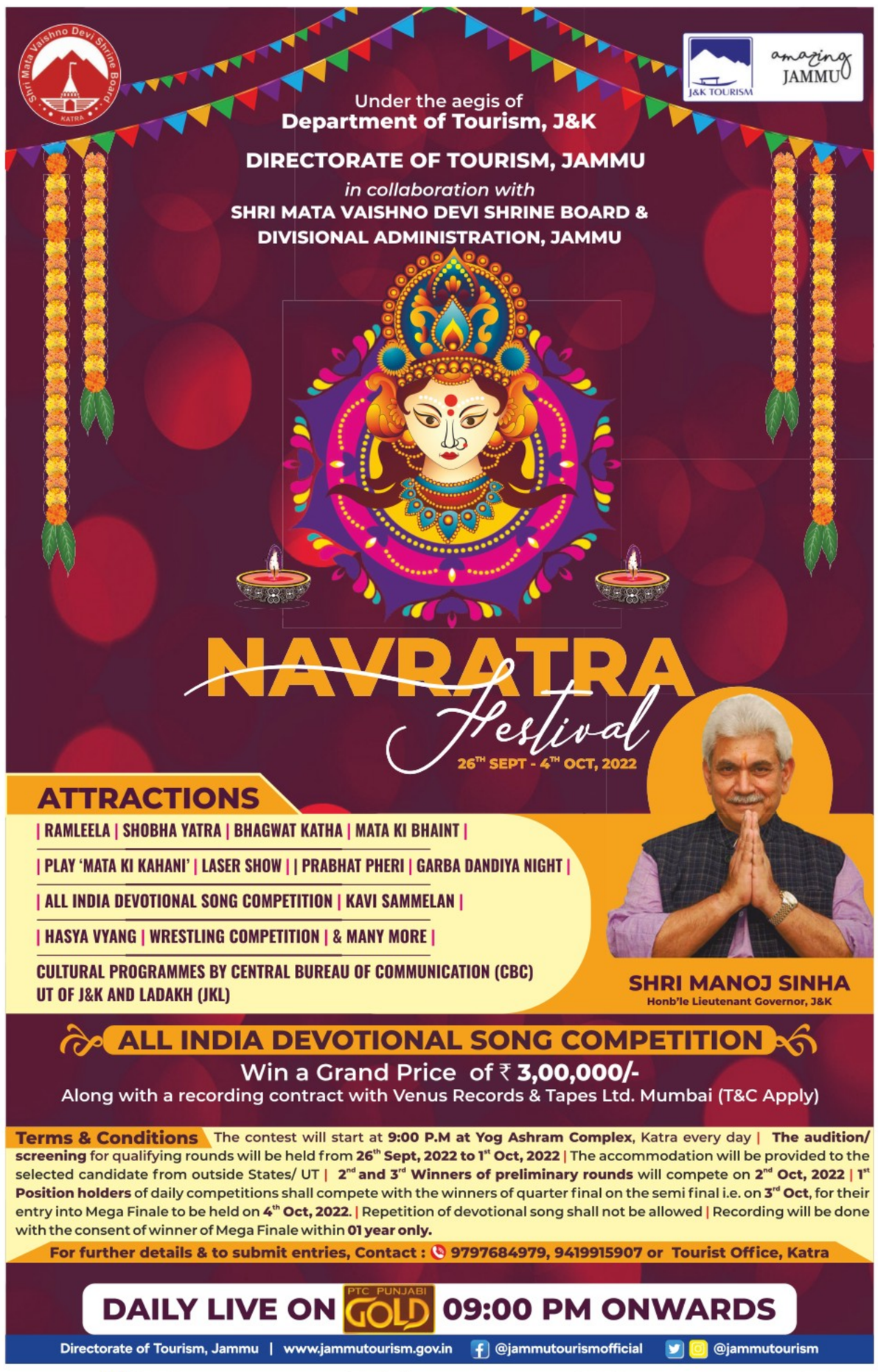
Inquiries revealed that the accused, a native of Kerala, was selling the drugs to college students and private firm employees in and around K.S. Layout.

Camp elephant dies in Bandipur

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A tusker from Ramapura elephant camp in Bandipur died on Thursday evening after suffering from prolonged illness.

Ganesha, 18, was to take part in Mysuru Dasara this year and was made a standby. But, he had to be dropped as a standby as he displayed extreme discomfiture and began vomiting early this month.



A BG-BGE

Tight security in place for Dasara festivities beginning tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Elaborate deployment of police personnel and video recording through CCTV cameras, body-worn and drone cameras are part of the heightened security measures that will be in place for the 10-day Dasara festival, which will kick off on September 26 with the inauguration by President Droupadi Murmu.

Briefing reporters in Mysuru on Saturday, Police Commissioner Chandragupta said 24-hour video recording will be available for authorities from not only 59 CCTV cameras permanently installed at traffic junctions in the city and the 110 installed along the route of procession from Mysuru Palace to the Torch Light Parade Grounds in Bannimantap, but also the 13,140 CCTV cameras installed by the public under the Karnataka Public Safety (Measures) Enforcement Act 2017.

A Mobile Command Centre bus equipped with CCTV cameras, body-worn cameras, long distance videography and photography will be used for the Dasara festival. All the police personnel deployed at the entry points of Mysuru Palace and Bannimantap will be equipped with body-worn cameras. The video footage from those cameras will be recorded at the Mobile Command Centre, he said. Drone camera surveillance will also be in place at all venues.

A total of 5,485 police personnel including 1,255 from Mysuru, 3,580 from districts and 650 Home Guards will be deployed.

Dasara: Tourism picks up; bookings in Mysuru see 40% increase

Tour operators believe that the efforts being made by the State government to promote tourism during the festival have been working out well this year; and they are expecting a further increase of 40-50% in bookings with more demand for destinations like Kabini and Chikkamagaluru

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

As Mysuru decks up for the return of grandeur to the internationally famed Vijaya Dashami (Dasara) celebrations, tourists are also packing their bags to witness the glory. Many tour operators have reported at least a 40% rise in bookings to the city in the backdrop of festivals.

Between September 25 and October 10, many properties in the region are expected to run on 100% occupancy, according to industry experts. The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) has also introduced a special Dasara package to attract more visitors. "We have one property in Mysuru and one in Srirangapttana. Both are full for the coming weeks. Noticing the increased demand, we have also introduced new packages to Mysuru and might add more according to demand," said Jagadeesha G., Managing Director, KSTDC.

As festive season approaches, demand has also grown considerably for destinations like Bandipur National Park. FILE PHOTO

The first day of Dasara falls on September 26 this year and it will conclude on October 5. The tourism industry, which is on the path to recovery, is hopeful that business will be further enhanced this season and hopefully be better than the pre pandemic times. "Travel sentiment is at an all-time high as people look forward to celebrating the upcoming festive and winter holiday season like the good old days. Current data indicates that this festive travel season will hopefully witness one of the highest spikes in bookings since the pandemic happened. And this confidence comes at the back of advance bookings that have already surpassed (advance) bookings for the festive season in 2019 by over 12%. As we inch closer to the festive dates, we expect the numbers to move swiftly," said Vipul Prakash, Chief Operating Officer, MakeMyTrip and Goibibo.

While an almost 30 - 40% surge in bookings to Mysuru has been seen when compared to the previous months, a further rise of 40 - 50% is expected in the dates running up to the festival. Tour operators believe that the efforts which are being made by the government to promote tourism during the festival have been working out well this year.

"Since last year, there has been an approximate 70% increase in Mysuru reservations", said Rikant Pittie, Co-founder, EaseMyTrip.

While most bookings to the heritage city have come from within Karnataka, international tourists are also set to make a comeback this year for the royal event.

Demand has also grown considerably for destinations like Bandipur National Park, Kabini, Chikkamagaluru and other similar destinations for the coming weeks. "Our customers prefer travelling to destinations like Kodagu and Ooty while visiting Mysuru during the festive celebrations. There is increasing demand for Kabini River and Kerala; also, spa-wellness getaways," said Santhosh Kanna, Vice President, Leisure Travel - Thomas Cook (India) Limited.

Flower show expected to see higher footfall this year

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Dasara flower show to be held at Nishad Bagh (Kupanna Park) from September 26 October 5 is set to transport the visitors to a colorful world replete with plants and myriad flowers.

An annual feature during Dasara every year, over 50,000 flower pots with decorative plants cultivated by the Department of Horticulture will be on display as also thousands of flowers of various hues and varieties.

The Mysuru ZP CEO Ms. B.R. Poornima told media persons here on Saturday that a record 5 lakh people had visited the flower show in 2019 and they expect the footfalls to be higher this year as the event is being held after a gap of 2 years.

The glass house at Nishad Bagh will feature a replica of Rashtrapathi Bhavan made of red and white roses and Chrysanthemum flowers inside the Glass House and the flower-made structure would measure 20-ft tall.

Similarly, a statue of Puneeth Rajkumar carved in flowers will be an added attraction besides being a tribute to the late actor. A replica of Thandi Sadak – a walkway with plant shelter that were constructed by the maharajas - will also be an added feature this year, said Ms. Poornima.

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bengaluru – 560 009.
NO.: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND NO-08/AE-1/2022-23 Date: 23.09.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 08/2022-23
E-Procurement Tender Notice
Tender is invited through e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bengaluru Rural, under different head of account work. The work details can be obtained from the e-procurement website **(https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Date: 03.10.2022** upto **4.00 p.m.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bengaluru Rural Dist, Bengaluru
DIPR/DDU/AAA/2355/2022-23

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/DIV/KLB/TS-6/Tender Notification/2022-23/4414 Dated: 23.09.2022
:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::
1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender (KW-4) for 8443 of 3 works of Indent No: 154906, 156276 & 157696 tenders are called through e-procurement for the year 2022-23, 2) Estimated Cost : Estimate cost Minimum 83.67 Lakhs & Maximum 252.32 Lakhs. 3) Eligibility of Contractor: "PWD, Registered Contractors: "Class-I Qualified to tender for works upto any amount, "Class-II Qualified to tender for works upto Rs. 5.00 Crores, "Class-III Qualified to tender for works upto Rs. 2.00 Crores", 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application Fees as per e-procurement EMD Minimum Rs. 1,70,000.00 & Maximum Rs. 3,80,000.00, 5) Pre Bid Meeting: **28/10/2022 upto 11.00 Hrs.** 6) Last date for queries : **01/11/2022 upto 17.30 Hrs,** 7) Last date for submission of tender: **02/11/2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.** 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid: **03/11/2022 at 16:30 Hrs.** 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **04/11/2022 at 16.30 Hrs**, 10) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website : www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/653/MC&A/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is bring it to the notice of the General Public that our client State Bank of India, AECS Layout Branch, 60Ft road, AECS LAYOUT, Kundalahalli Bengaluru 560037 that Mr. Bala Subramanyam L and Smt. Ramya B have availed a housing loan from my client and deposited Original Sale deed dated 17/12/2007, bearing document No. BYP-1-03192/2007-08, of Book No. 1, stored in C.D.No.BYPD12, in the office of Sub-registrar Byatarayanapura, executed by Sri K Venkataswamy Naidu (as Vendor) and M/s. KVS Builder and Developer (as Builder) in faovur of Mr. Bala Subramanyam L and Smt. Ramya B with respect of the Property bearing Apartment bearing No. 206, in the Second Floor, with super built up area of 1090 Sq. Ft., along with 310 Sq.Ft., undivided share in building known as "HINDUJA TOWERS", constructed at Site No 06, 07 and 08, Khata No 6/7/8, issued by the Byatarayanapura City Municipal Council Bangalore- 92 formed out of Sy no 193/4, Situated at Kodigehalli village, Yelahanka Hobli Bangalore North Taluk. During inspection it is found that said deed's along with documents mentioned above is misplaced and is not found.
If any of the public traces the same the same may be handed over to the below mentioned Address or State Bank of India, AECS Layout Branch, 60Ft road, AECS LAYOUT, Kundalahalli Bengaluru. Further if any person having custody and tries to misuse the said documents same shall not be binding on the said property. My client bank has issue the certified copy of the said document with a letter to the borrower in this regard.
Hence this notice.
M/s. Sachin Bichu and Associates
#412/21, Ground Floor, 19th Cross, 1st and 3rd Block, Jayanagar Bengaluru-560011 Mob: 9742499808/9110224212
Email-bichuassociates@yahoo.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our Client intends to transact with the owner of the Schedule Property viz., **MRS. V. GEETHA**, wife of Mr. M.S. Chandrashekara Raju, presently residing at **No. 336, 11th Cross, J.P. Nagar 1st Phase, Bengaluru – 560 078,** who represented that she is sole and absolute owner of property bearing Site No. 21 (new No. 12), 28th Cross Road, Jayanagar 7th Block, Bangalore, mentioned in the Schedule hereunder.
Any person/s having objection for the transaction with the above person in respect of the Schedule Property or claims to have any right, title or interest in the Schedule Property, he/she shall intimate the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice. In the event no such claim is received within the stipulated time, our client shall proceed with aforesaid transaction as if no such claim exists or that they have been waived or abandoned.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable property being Vacant **Site No. 21 (new No. 12), situated at 28th Cross Road, Jayanagar 7th Block, Bangalore,** with BBMP PID No. 59-86-12, measuring East to West : 40 feet and North to South : 60 feet, in all totally measuring 2400 square feet and bounded as follows:
EAST BY : Property No. 22;
WEST BY : Property No. 20;
NORTH BY : 28th Cross Road;
SOUTH BY :Property No. 28.
Sd/-
Divya Vani H.K., B.A., LL.M.
Advocate
RAVI LOBO & CO.,
No. 37/7, Meanee Avenue,
Tank Road,S.C. Garden,
Bangalore – 560 042,
Ph: (080) 25591702 / 41123363
Place: Bangalore
Dated: 25/09/2022

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग
शुद्धि पत्र
इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित ई–अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या–RDD/SD/HZB/03/2022-23 पी0आर0 संख्या 278538 (Rural Development) 22-23*D में प्रकाशित निविदा में निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है:–

क्र0		
3.	ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग / ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, राँची के कार्यालय कक्ष में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि शपथ पत्र की मूल प्रति जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	07.10.2022 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक
4.	तकनीकी निविदा खोलने का स्थान, तिथि एवं समय–	ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, राँची 10.10.2022 अपराह्न 02.00 बजे ।

निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल
हजारीबाग
PR 278615 Rural Development(22-23)D

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify the general public that my client entered in to an Agreement of Sale dated 08/08/2022 with M/s.Atlantis Builders (I) Pvt. Ltd., A Company, registered under the provisions of The Companies Act, 1956, represented by its Director, Mr.K.V.Rajashekariah, registered as Document No.3815/2022-23 of Book-I, stored in CD No.BSGD1254, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, agreeing to purchase the land morefully described in the schedule hereunder on certain terms and conditions. If any person/s or any entity/authority having any right, title and interest or objections over the Schedule Property may lodge their claims/objections in writing supported by relevant documentsto the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication. In case of non receipt of objections or claims within the aforesaid period my client shall presume that there are no claims/objections for purchase.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Khata No.2077/SyNo.122, carved out of converted land bearing Survey No.122, measuring 01 Acre 26 Guntas, (converted vide Official Memorandum dated 26/11/2013, bearing No. ALN. (SU). SR:35/2013-14, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), situated at Uttharahalli, Ward No.184, Bangalore, Previously Uttharahalli Village, Uttharahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the:
East by: Road, Survey No.129 and; portion of Survey No.122; West by: Survey No.82(84); North by: Survey No.81; South by: Village Boundary.
C.R. Prathima, Advocate
9, Janatha Hotel Building, 11th Cross H. Siddaiah Road, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-27
Ph. : 9880102120

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC O&M Division-8, Zalaki- 586204. Tq:Indi, Dist:Vijayapur. Email:eezalaki1@gmail.com
No:KBJNL/IBCD-8/ZALAKI/DB/Tender/Staircase /2022-23/1611 Dated: 21.09.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
INVITATION FOR PERCENTAGE TENDERS
On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL IBC O&M.Division No.8, Zalaki, Tq: Indi ,invites tenders in Standard Bid Documents KW-4 as per KTPP Act-2000 from Registered Contractor enrolled in Category-3 list of KBJNL, for the work of Construction of Staircase for Bheema Shankar Temple At Bheema River Dhulkhed Village Tq Indi Dist Vijayapur [I.No.23142] Amounting to Rs: **144.13** Lakhs. The tenderers are required to submit in **Two cover sytem** containing details of EMD of Rs: **2.16** Lakhs and the particulars under instructions to the tenderers vide clause 1.1 and financial details of tender as per clauses 1.20.
• (The blank tenders can be obtained through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender box).
• The Contractor can have access to e-tender documents from **29.09.2022 to 06.10.2022** up to 4.30 PM
• Submission of completed e-tender document will be upto **06.10.2022** upto 4.30 PM
• The Prospective Bidders should attend the Pre-Bid Meeting @ Executive Engineer's office Zalaki on **03.10.2022** @ 11.00 AM
• Opening of e-tender bids i.e, **Cover –I (Technical bid)** will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC, O&M, Divn.No.8 Zalaki on **10.10.2022 at 11.00** AM. In respect of bidders whose e-EMD has been confirmed on the e-tendering platform.
• **Cover–II (Financial bid)** of qualified bidder will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC, O&M, Divn, No.8 Zalaki on **12.10.2022** at 11.00 AM.
• Further any information can be had from the undersigned during office hours Ph.08422-282227.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, IBC O&M Division-8, Zalaki.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/440/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru- 560 001
Ph : 080-2558 1383 / 2558 9112 Fax : 080-2558 6321
Email : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : www.kspcb.karnataka.gov.in
No.PCB/96/SEO/MINES/EPH/2022-23/4258 Dated: 22.09.2022
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION
The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited, has proposed to undertake Quarrying of Ordinary Sand from Bedawatti Sand Block in Krishna River Bed with capacity 30,070 TPA over an area 16-00 acres at Sy.Nos. 14, 15, 55, 60, 65 to 71, Bedawatti Village, Kukkanur Taluk, Koppal District. The project proponent has to obtain Environmental Clearance from SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, as per the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 (as amended on 01.12.2009), and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing. As per the SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No. SEIAA 431 MIN 2021 dated: 06-12-2021 and request of the project proponent in letter received at Board Office dated 24.01.2022, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board. The Environmental Public Hearing was earlier scheduled on 05.07.2022 and the same was published in the newspapers **(Kannada: Prajavani & English: The Hindu) on 05.06.2022.** It was postponed as per the instructions of Deputy Commissioner, Koppal District and the **Environmental Public Hearing is re-scheduled on 11.10.2022 (Tuesday) at 3.00 PM.**
The details of the project are as follows:

1.	**Name of the Company & Address: The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited, 3rd Floor, KHB Shopping Complex, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bangalore- 560047**
2.	**Proposed Location of Quarry: Sy.Nos. 14, 15, 55, 60, 65 to 71, Bedawatti Village, Kukkanur Taluk, Koppal District, Karnataka.**
3.	**Details of proposed activity: Quarrying of Ordinary Sand of capacity 30,070 TPA**
4.	**Pollution control measures proposed:** Regular sprinkling of water on haul and access roads. Regular maintenance of all equipment to minimize particulate matter and gaseous emissions from diesel engines. Plantation of thick greenbelt is provided around lease area boundary. The green belt will be provided within and around the plant to control fugitive emission.
5.	**Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing: 11.10.2022 (Tuesday) at 3:00 PM at the proposed project area of Sy.Nos. 14, 15, 55, 60, 65 to 71, Bedawatti Village, Kukkanur Taluk, Koppal District.**
6.	**Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are:** (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Koppal District (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Koppal (c) District Industries Centre, Koppal (d) Taluk Panchayath, Kukkanur (e) Tahsildar Office Koppal. (f) Village Panchayath Office, Bedawatti (g) Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Koppal (h) SEIAA, Karnataka Room No. 706, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001 (i) **HELP DESK,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Koppal District, Koppal). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
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MISSING

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Short on basic drugs, govt. asks hospitals to procure 44 essential drugs locally

Since many hospitals are finding it hard to procure these drugs locally, prescriptions are written for patients to buy them from outside

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

There has been an irregular supply of basic drugs in all government hospitals for the last two years and hospital authorities are unable to get supplies even after repeated indenting. FILE PHOTO

Government hospitals in the State continue to face an acute shortage of basic drugs, including paracetamol, sterile disposable IV cannulas, normal saline, and even insulin syringes.

In fact, the Health Department has officially admitted that there is no supply of basic drugs and has written to all hospitals to procure 44 essential drugs locally for the next two months. However, several hospitals, especially taluk hospitals and primary health centres (PHCs) are finding it hard to procure these drugs locally due to insufficient funds. As a result, prescriptions are written out for patients to buy from outside.

For two years

Sources said there has been an irregular/short supply of basic drugs in all government hospitals for the last two years and hospital authorities are unable to get supplies even after repeated indenting.

All essential medical supplies, including suture and bandage material, catheter, gloves, Ringer Lactate injection, sterile disposable umbilical cord clamp, syringe with hypodermic needle, IV cannulas and insulin syringe apart from many basic drugs are in short supply.

"The daily patient flow has come back to the pre-COVID-19 level. But we do not have the required drugs and are facing the wrath of patients when we write out prescriptions for them to buy from outside," said a senior doctor from a district hospital.

Tendering process

The Health Department's letter dated September 14 stated that of the 445 drugs indented by government health facilities, the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd. (KSMSCL) has completed the tendering process of 210 drugs and the supply has begun.

"For the remaining 235 drugs, the tendering process is at various stages and it will take another 60 days for the supply to begin. In the wake of this, hospitals have been directed to procure 44 essential basic drugs locally for the next two months with Arogya Raksha Samithi (ARS), Ayushman Bharat - Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) and National Free Drugs Service (NFDS) funds," the letter stated.

However, sources said the available funds are not sufficient to procure the drugs. "With a patient flow of over 1,500 daily and over 350 in-patients at any given time, the available funds are not enough to meet the drug requirement even for a fortnight in a hospital," sources said.

Poor response to tenders

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. attributed the problem to poor response to the tenders floated by KSMSCL. "Funds should not be a problem as apart from ARS and NFDS funds, we have released a total of Rs 240 crore to hospitals in the last six months. All these funds can be used entirely for drug procurement," he said.

Asserting that drug supply should stabilise by October end, the Commissioner said re-tendering had to be done for 162 drugs as there was a single bidder who had quoted very high.

"For 73 of these 162, retendering has been done for the third time. Besides, supply through one prominent supplier had to be stopped as the company was blacklisted in a few other States. Subsequently, the company has been removed from the blacklist and supplies will resume soon," the Commissioner explained.

Tendering for next year

To avoid problems for the coming year, the KSMSCL has already started the tender process for 26 drugs of NHM health programmes (such as National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme, SHUCHI, Comprehensive Primary Health Care and Maternal Health) for 2022-2023 at a total cost of ₹ 56.11 crore. Technical evaluation is under process for some drugs, State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said.

From Page One

Assaulted by ganja peddlers, officer in critical condition

Circle inspector of police Sreemanth Illal, who was assaulted by 40 ganja smugglers near a village in Maharashtra. ARUN KULKARNI

During interrogation, the accused revealed that ganja was grown in and smuggled from an agricultural field near a village at Omerga taluk of Osmanabad district in Maharashtra, on Karnataka-Maharashtra border.

On Friday, Mr. Illal led a team of police officers to the source of ganja that was seized and found the field where ganja was cultivated. He informed the Maharashtra police and remained in the area with his team waiting for reinforcement. However, before the Maharashtra police arrived, a gang of over 40 people armed with rods and cudgels attacked Mr. Illal and his team by 8.30 p.m. and later fled. Additional forces that were immediately dispatched reached the spot and found a critically injured Mr. Illal lying on in the field.

Though Home Minister Araga Jnanendra suggested shifting the officer to either Bengaluru or Hyderabad in a special aircraft, it was put on hold since the police officer's condition was yet to stabilise, said Dr. Sudarshan Lakhe, an intensivist who led the team of doctors treating the injured police officer. He may be shifted to Hyderabad on Sunday, if required.

"The Superintendent of Police, Osmanabad, has been in touch with me since the incident happened. Maharashtra police are extending all cooperation. The Bidar police are booking a case. We will shortly nab the culprits," Superintendent of Police Isha Panth told *The Hindu*.

Sharan Prakash Patil, former Minister, told the police to act swiftly and take stringent action so that the morale of the police and the public confidence in police were restored.

25 quintals of PDS rice seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Food and Civil Supplies Department caught a man carrying 25 quintals of PDS rice in a goods vehicle on Government Hospital Main Road in K.R. Puram on Tuesday.

The officials intercepted the vehicle and caught the driver, identified as Akbar, and handed him over to the police along with the vehicle.

Based on the complaint filed by Deputy Director Syed Amanulla, the police have registered a case under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and are investigating.

Initial probe revealed that Akbar was part of the racket to buy rice from BPL card holders and sell it to the mills to polish and be sold it in the open market. The police are now probing if there is a possible involvement of the fair price shop owners.

Sumanahalli flyover repair work to take a week to get done, say BBMP officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Workers repairing the damaged Sumanahalli flyover on Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR) stretch after a patch caved in. PTI

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will take one week to complete the repair work at the Sumanahalli flyover, where a hole surfaced recently.

The repair work is leading to traffic snarls on the Outer Ring Road stretch in West Bengaluru. On September 20, a hole developed on the RCC slab of the flyover, situated on the Goraguntepalya-Nayandahalli section of the ORR, over the busy Magadi Road connecting Nagarabhavi and the Dr. Rajkumar Samadhi.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, BBMP West Zone assistant executive engineer Balaji Gowda said that the work has started where rapid setting cement is used to repair the hole on the flyover. "The work will take a week to complete. We are using top-grade concrete to repair the hole," he added

"We have investigated the flyover and there is no danger owing to the present hole," Mr. Gowda said, adding, "An analysis will be conducted, and we will take 30 days to get a report on the stability of the flyover."

The repair work is leading to traffic snarls on the Outer Ring Road stretch in West Bengaluru. On September 20, a hole developed on the RCC slab of the flyover, situated on the Goraguntepalya-Nayandahalli section.

The officials said that the flyover was commissioned by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) in 2010 and was handed over to the BBMP in 2016. In 2019 too, the flyover had seen a similar hole and the civic body had repaired it, officials said.

Earlier, Chief Commissioner of BBMP Tushar Giri Nath said that the BBMP has given a contract to a company to study the stability and other issues related to all the 47 flyovers in the city.

One side of Shivananda flyover opened

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In another part of the city, the civic body has opened one side of the Shivananda Circle steel flyover for traffic movement despite the pending report. The BBMP had earlier opened one stretch of the Shivananda Circle steel flyover for the public as a trial run, but after receiving criticism on the quality issue of the flyover, Mr. Giri Nath directed officials to go for an audit by the experts from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

However, speaking to The Hindu, Lokesh, Chief Engineer, Projects, BBMP, said, "There is no problem regarding the safety of flyover. The stretch is safe and meets all standard safety qualities, but still, since a few people have raised concerns, we have written to the experts in IISc to conduct an audit and they are yet to submit the report."

The BBMP had approached a team headed by Prof Chandra Kishen J. M. from the Civil Engineering Department of IISc to conduct a safety audit of the flyover.

Another officer from the BBMP said that the complaints on the steel flyover are about the vibrations felt during the vehicle movement and there is no rider comfort. "This issue has to be addressed soon, hence the expert audit report is important and the advice provided by the IISc expert team will be implemented," the official said.

Earlier, the BBMP had decided to officially open the 492.84 m flyover to the public on Independence day, but the work was not completed and the civic body postponed the opening date. The flyover project was conceived in 2011 and the State Cabinet approved ₹19.8 crore in 2017.

INBRIEF

Mazumdar-Shaw gets H.K. Firodia Lifetime Achievement Award 2022

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon Ltd. and Biocon Biologics Ltd., has been awarded H.K. Firodia Lifetime Achievement Award 2022 for Excellence in Science & Technology by H.K. Firodia Memorial Foundation on the 25th anniversary of the award.

Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw was given this award for her "monumental contributions as a global leader in biotechnology innovation and entrepreneurship," said a statement.

"As a scientist, I was inspired by the vision of creating an organisation that leverages science and technology to widen access to lifesaving drugs for patients on the lowest rung of the economic ladder. It is through our philosophy of affordable innovation that we have been able to make a difference to global health equity by ensuring that no patient anywhere in the world is denied essential and lifesaving biologic drugs on account of affordability," said Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, SEP. 25		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:14
RISE	05:32	SET 18:03
MONDAY, SEP. 26		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:13
RISE	06:21	SET 18:41
TUESDAY, SEP. 27		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:12
RISE	07:11	SET 19:21

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	31	21
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be slight warm and humid.Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night remains pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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15 persons arrested in PFI case so far

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have arrested 15 people so far from Karnataka, including two from Bengaluru, in connection with action against the Popular Front of India (PFI) as a part of the nationwide joint operation with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Police sources said the 15 people were arrested for allegedly organising conspiracy to radicalise Muslim youth towards violent acts of extremist nature, receiving funds to impart training in using lethal weapons and deputing them to "undertake targeted attacks." The accused were produced before the court and taken into custody for further investigation. The police have seized electronic gadgets along with some documents from their houses during the raid, which the officials are verifying.

Commenting on the raids on PFI offices and office-bearers in the State, CM Basavaraj Bommai said on Saturday that both NIA and the police have taken suitable action regarding PFI's activities in the State.

BMCRI doctor booked in Aadhaar case gets clean chit from police in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The then Assistant Professor of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) , who was booked by the Yeshwanthpur police for endorsing documents of people seeking Aadhaar cards without verifying in January 2018, has been acquitted of all charges due to lack of evidence.

The police, based on the complaint filed by Ashok Lenin, Deputy Director, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), charged Dr. Ramamurthy MB, under the Information Technology Act, The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services), impersonation and cheating.

During the course of investigations, the police questioned the beneficiaries, visited their houses to check the address proof and recorded their statement and found no proof nor any records against Dr. Ramamurthy and concluded that he had not committed any offence and the charges levelled against him were false, sources said.

Based on the outcome, the police filed a B report before the court absolving Dr. Ramamurthy of all the charges after obtaining due permission from the court.

It may be recalled that the police had accused Dr. Ramamurthy of sharing copy of his ID card along with the letter of endorsement with the beneficiaries to help them avail Aadhaar cards from Yeshwanthpur. Many such Aadhaar beneficiaries had obtained driving licenses and registered vehicles," a police officer said.

The incident came to light when officials of the UIDAI, during a routine audit, came across some suspicious documents. Upon cross-checking, they found that several Aadhaar cards, which had been obtained with false information, had been endorsed by Dr. Ramamurthy.

Based on these findings, Ashok Lenin filed a complaint with the police accusing the doctor of helping people get Aadhaar illegally, thus cheating the government. The Yeshwanthpur police registered a case under various sections of the IT Act and Aadhaar Act.

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INBRIEF

Man killed in tiger attack in Ponnampet taluk of Kodagu

A man was killed in a tiger attack at Kotturu village in Ponnampet taluk of Kodagu on Saturday. The victim, Raju, 52, belonged to Bommada Haadi bordering Nagarahole and the incident took place late on Saturday. Conservator of Forests of Kodagu B.N.N. Murthy, who confirmed the development, said camera traps had been installed to ascertain the identity of the tiger while elephants were being deployed for combing. The combing operations would start at dawn on Sunday and continue till the tiger was captured and translocated, he added. Tension prevailed in the village with locals raising slogans against the Forest Department.

'Rules to ban confiscation of farmers' property by banks'

The Karnataka government will bring suitable amendments to the existing rules to end the practice of confiscation of properties of farmers by banks when they are facing financial crunch, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai *(in picture)* said in Chitradurga on Saturday. The Chief Minister said rules would be amended in such a way that farmers could clear loans at ease. He pointed out that he had formulated the Vidyanidhi scheme for the children of 14 lakh farmers and the same had been now extended to the children of agricultural labourers, weavers, fishermen, and autorickshaw and taxi drivers.

In spite of giving zero per cent loan to farmers up to ₹3 lakh, they were still facing problems due to nature's fury, he said. However, this time, since the State had received good rain and all the tanks and waterbodies were full, there would be no problem in the next two to three years, he said.

Murmu to inaugurate St. Joseph's University

St. Joseph's University in Bengaluru will be inaugurated by President Draupadi Murmu on September 27, the institution has announced. The institution was granted university status back in July under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan. Governor of Karnataka Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and Archbishop of Benagaluru Peter Machado will be present during the inauguration.

During her three-day visit to Bengaluru from September 26 to 28, Ms. Murmu will also be inaugurating the Integrated Cryogenic Engines Manufacturing Facility at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. on September 27. She will also be virtually laying the foundation stone for the Zonal Institute of Virology (South Zone) of the National Institute of Virology on the same day.

Horatti upset as rumblings in BJP lead to polls for Council Chairman's post being put off

Sources in the party claim a section of BJP leaders was opposed to a newcomer being nominated to the position; election is now expected to be held during the winter session in Belagavi

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The former Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti is an unhappy man after developments in the BJP forced the postponement of the election process for the Council Chairman's post. Following a section of BJP leaders opposing his nomination to the post, the government did not move the process of conducting the election, resulting in pro tem chairman Raghunath Rao Malkapure continuing in the post.

Basavaraj Horatti was promised re-election to the post of Council Chairman by a section of senior BJP leaders before he moved from the Janata Dal (Secular) to the ruling party. FILE PHOTO

Record victory

Mr. Horatti, who was promised re-election to the post by a section of senior BJP leaders before he moved from the Janata Dal (Secular) to the BJP, was expected to be elected in the monsoon session of the legislature that ended on Friday. The veteran leader registered a record eighth consecutive victory from the Karnataka West Teachers constituency on a BJP ticket in June this year. He had resigned from the JD (S) and the Chairman's post to join the BJP before the election.

Multiple sources confirmed that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had met 30 MLCs last week to elicit their opinion on Mr. Horatti's nomination and 28 of them backed him. "The two who did not support his candidature were Ayanur Manjunath and Sashil Namoshi, who themselves expressed the desire to become the Chairman." Only after a majority agreed on Mr. Horatti's nomination, the file to clear the election process was moved before the Cabinet. However, after the proposal met with opposition from a few leaders, the Cabinet note was withdrawn and the process to conduct the election in this session was dropped, sources said.

Mr. Horatti's candidature has been opposed by a group loyal to B.L. Santhosh, BJP's national general secretary (organisation), who is not keen on offering the important post to a newcomer to the party, according to sources. "Besides, he is inclined towards Mr. Malkapure from Kuruba community as he feels that the party has to accommodate a Kuruba in a top post after the exit of senior Minister K.S. Eshwarappa from the Cabinet." Another contender for the post is Puttanna, a Vokkaliga member and also a newcomer to the party.

Big promise

However, the opposition to the candidature of Mr. Horatti, a respected long-time member of the Council and from the powerful Lingayat community, has not gone down well in the other section of the party. It is learnt that it was a group of BJP leaders, including Union Law and Parliamentary Minister Pralhad Joshi, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Revenue Minister R. Ashok, and former Chief Ministers B.S. Yediyurappa and Jagadish Shettar, had taken the lead to bring Mr. Horatti to the party. "Assurance was given by Union Home Minister Amit Shah after which Mr. Horatti joined the party. It is not right to bring a veteran leader and humiliate him," sources said.

Now, the election is expected to be held during the winter session in Belagavi. The party's candidate for the post of Deputy Chairman will be decided based on the community of the person nominated for the Chairman's post, sources said.

BJP gives 'PayCM' campaign a caste twist; Cong. hits back

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress is always trying to target major communities. It is now trying to dislodge a Lingayat Chief Minister.
K. SUDHAKAR, Health Minister

Our target is large-scale corruption. Basavaraj Bommai is our Chief Minister. His caste or religion is immaterial.
D.K. SHIVAKUMAR, KPCC president

Attempting to give the 'PayCM' campaign of the Congress a caste twist, Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar has said that Opposition Congress "always targets major communities" and the ongoing campaign is "trying to dislodge a Lingayat Chief Minister".

Hitting back, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar said they viewed Mr. Bommai as a Chief Minister and not by his religion or caste and the BJP should stop "diversionary tactics".

'Tarnished dignity'

Dr. Sudhakar told reporters on Saturday that the campaign stemmed from "desperation". Alleging that the Congress was known to target "good administrators/Chief Ministers from major communities", he said Congress leaders had "tarnished the dignity of State politics" through this campaign.

"With their own senior members out on bail after being arrested on the charge of corruption, they are now behaving as if they are Satya Harischandra," he said, adding that he had never seen a former Chief Minister pasting posters.

'About corruption'

Reacting to this in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Our target is large-scale corruption and nothing else. Mr. Bommai is our Chief Minister. His caste or religion is immaterial and not of consequence." He deplored the BJP's attempt to give it a caste colour.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bommai termed the Congress campaign as "dirty politics". The Chief Minister, who was in Chitradurga to participate in an event organised by Taralabalu Jagadguru Brihanmath of Sirigere, a prominent Lingayat mutt in Central Karnataka, said the Congress harboured illusions of coming to power with such campaigns. "This will not happen in Karnataka as the government will take legal action against it," he said.

When his reaction was sought to Dr. Sudhakar's statement that he was being targeted since he belonged to the Lingayat community, Mr. Bommai said he was not a party to the statement and would not comment.

Electricity bill: FAC collection opposed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Opposition poured in a day after Bescom announced that consumers will have to pay an extra 43 paise per unit for electricity from October after the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission accepted its application to collect the amount as Fuel Cost Adjustment Charges (FAC). Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy questioned why despite copious rain and adequate energy availability, people were being burdened with high electricity tariffs. The FAC will be charged on every unit of power sold from October 2022 to March 2023.

'Ensure renewable energy projects are not imperilled by litigation'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that it is high time the State government and the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd. (KREDL) pondered over and took appropriate measures to see that huge projects in the renewable energy sector were not imperilled by avoidable litigation in larger public interest.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit made this suggestion while disposing a litigation among three private companies over the allotment of an area of land to set up their respective wind energy projects.

The court said its suggestion had to be read in the light of "renewable energy infrastructure at present and the daunting climate change and energy crises faced by the world".

"Renewable energy currently has a share of 26.53% in the total installed generation capacity in the country; the installed capacity having been increased 286% in the last 7.5 years," it said quoting data from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's annual report 2020-21 and India Energy Policy Review-2020.

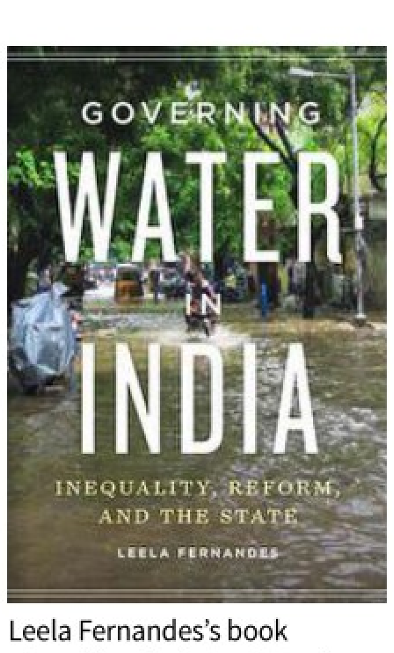
Two companies – SRK Energy Pvt. Ltd. and SJP Builders and Developers Pvt. Ltd., in their petitions, contended that the authorities had allotted an area, in which allotments were made for their wind energy projects, in favour of Ayana Renewable Power Six Pvt. Ltd. for a larger capacity wind energy project.

The court refused to interfere with the government's decision.

Cauvery dispute: Absence of Central govt. action prompted Supreme Court to assert authority, says author

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Dispute over the sharing of the Cauvery waters between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has become one of the most infamous examples of the inability of the Indian state to effectively mediate conflicts over water resources, says Leela Fernandes, professor, University of Washington, who has authored the book *Governing Water in India: Inequality, Reform and the State*.



Leela Fernandes's book chronicles the inter-State river water-sharing dispute.

The book chronicles tendencies towards centralisation and the Supreme Court's interventions in resolving inter-State river water-sharing disputes of Tamil Nadu with neighbouring Karnataka and Kerala.

The author argued that the absence of the Central government action on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu water dispute prompted the Supreme Court to assert its own authority and compel the Centre to form the Cauvery Water Management Board.

"Such interventions of the Supreme Court in the years after the tribunal award in themselves reflected a failure of the Central government's regulatory state capacity," argued Prof. Fernandes in her book published by the University of Washington Press recently.

In the context of dire water scarcity within both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the court attempted to manage an emergency situation that should have been the responsibility of the Centre. "The Cauvery dispute is illustrative of a case in which state-civil society relationships in both States have been polarised by the cumulative effects of decades of state institutional incapacity," she noted.

Bengaluru's needs

"Tensions between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the release of water are also shaped by the drinking water needs of Bengaluru during periods of water scarcity," she said.

In contrast to the Cauvery case, the author said, disputes between Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Mullaperiyar Dam on the Periyar river is a dispute over the management of the dam and not over water sharing. The dam is located in Kerala but fully operated by Tamil Nadu. Kerala had been raising issues related to the dam's safety.

Prof. Fernandes said that underlying the overt focus on the safety of the dam were political-economic interests in both States. Tamil Nadu relied on water from the dam for both irrigation and drinking water. Kerala's plea is "more nuanced", with interests in land and tourism with its concerns over the safety of the dam.

Politicisation of issue

As with the Cauvery river dispute, years of adjudication, the politicisation of the issue by political parties, civil society organisations, and a set of political-economic factors, have transformed the issue of dam maintenance into a decades-long dispute between the two States.

Contemporary political and economic relationships centered on the sharing of water between Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala are rooted in the geopolitical power of the British-ruled Madras Presidency, she said.

Complex relationship

Inter-State water negotiations are shaped by the complexities of Center-State relationships and national political alliances that affect the interests of both Central and State governments, she argued.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ನಂ–2 ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ–576229 ಕುಂದಾಪುರ (ತಾ), ಉಡುಪಿ (ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ), ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
ಕ.ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ ಸಂ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ವಾಜಯೋವಿ–2/ಸಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/16/2022–23/930 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.09.2022

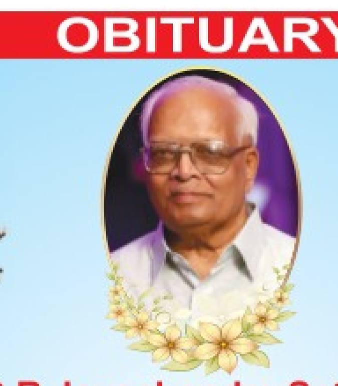
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ) (ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಂ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಾರಾಹಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 4701–ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ:
(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.
(2) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 222.88 ಲಕ್ಷ** (3) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 2,50,000.00 (4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.09.2022** (5) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಿ–ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.09.2022 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.2 ವಾಜಯೋವಿ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. (6) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ ಕೇಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.09.2022** (7) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.10.2022.** (8) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.10.2022** (9) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in, www.knnlindia.com** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ–2 ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. (10) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ.,
ನಂ.2 ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಉ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/448/22–23 ದಿ: 24.09.2022

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



Sri C R Jayachandra Setty B.Sc, B.L
Advocate and Notary
20-08-1934 23-09-2022

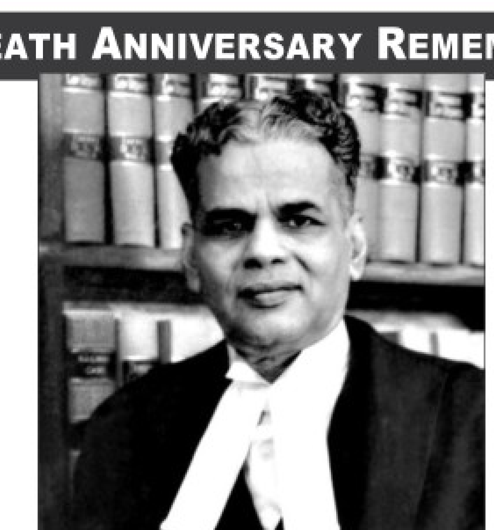
The family and friends pay their homage and last respects to a beacon of light and pillar of strength of the community. He was a great, towering and noble selfless man and had dedicated his entire life to public service.

He will be mourned by all the organisations he was associated with in his lifetime. He was
- Hon. Treasurer, National Education Society (National College group of institutions, Bengaluru)
- Hon Secretary, Vasavi Hostel Trust
- Founder, Naada Sudha Music Organisation, VV Puram,
- Trustee, Dr S R Chandrashekar Institute of Speech and Hearing, Bengaluru
- Trustee, Vasavi Vidya Nikethan Trust
- Trustee, Eswar Bhavan, Nanjangud
- Past Secretary General, Karnataka Arya Vysya Charitable Trust
- Past Secretary and Legal Advisor, Karnataka Arya Vysya Mahasabha Trust
- Trustee, AVOPA Charitable Trust, Bengaluru
- Hon President, Dodda Palana Halli Arya Vysya Chatra, Tumkur District.
- Member of Governing Council, Ashaktha Poshaka Sabha, Visweswara Puram
- Trustee, Vasavi Union Charitable Trust.
- EC member, Arya Vysya Vyayama Shala.

And served many more institutions in various capacities.
OM SHANTHI

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

25th DEATH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE



Justice E. S. Venkataramaiah
(18.12.1924 to 25.09.1997)
Former Chief Justice of India

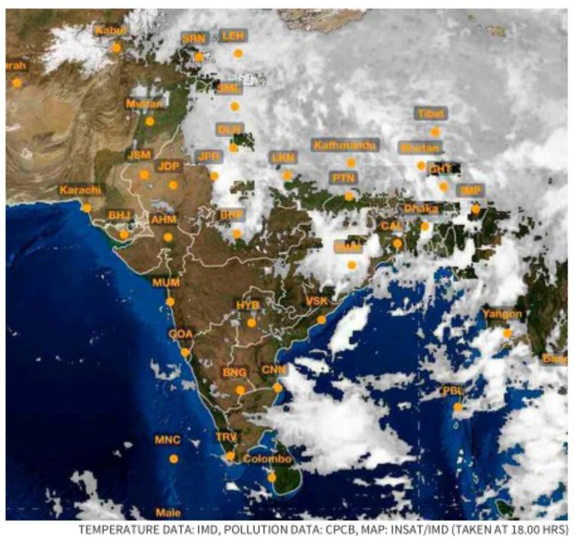
yad yad ācarati śreṣṭhas
tat tad evetaro janaḥ
sa yat pramāṇaṁ kurute
lokas tad anuvartate
(Bhagavad Gita-3.21)

Exemplary deeds by great men serve as a beacon to the world to follow.

Fondly Remembered by:
Justice B. V. Nagarathna, Sri. B. N. Gopala Krishna
Nayanatara B. G. and Prerana B. G.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and Bihar. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	33.0	26.2	Kozhikode	0.8	33.2	23.8
Ahmedabad	—	33.3	24.5	Kurnool	—	34.2	23.2
Aizawl	—	—	—	Lucknow	5	31.3	24.4
Allahabad	—	30.5	24.4	Madurai	—	37.1	23.1
Bengaluru	—	28.9	20.4	Mangaluru	12.4	29.8	22.1
Bhopal	9.7	—	21.7	Mumbai	24	31.1	24.0
Bhubaneswar	—	32.7	25.5	Mysuru	—	30.9	21.4
Chandigarh	14	26.1	23.7	New Delhi	15	27.2	22.6
Chennai	—	36.0	28.6	Patna	—	33.1	27.5
Coimbatore	—	33.0	22.2	Port Blair	0.9	31.4	23.8
Dehradun	17	26.9	22.6	Puducherry	—	38.0	25.6
Gangtok	2.5	19.5	17.5	Pune	—	30.1	19.6
Goa	2.1	30.6	23.4	Raipur	—	30.6	23.2
Guwahati	—	32.0	25.4	Ranchi	2	30.2	22.9
Hubballi	—	29.0	19.0	Shillong	16	23.5	17.2
Hyderabad	—	30.6	21.1	Shimla	4	18.3	14.8
Imphal	35	29.3	19.7	Srinagar	—	28.4	16.6
Jaipur	66	30.8	23.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.6	23.9
Kochi	0.2	30.6	23.6	Tiruchi	—	36.1	25.6
Kohima	—	25.2	17.0	Vijayawada	—	34.9	24.8
Kolkata	—	34.5	27.2	Visakhapatnam	—	33.8	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.36	.46	.42	39	80	
Bengaluru	.7	.28	.59	35	112	
Chennai	.3	.29	.68	80	71	
Delhi	.18	.88	.31	47	63	
Hyderabad	.10	.3	155	34	52	
Kolkata	.6	.12	.21	46	69	
Lucknow	.11	.35	.88	37	46	
Mumbai	.—	114	.50	19	25	
Pune	.23	.26	.31	69	48	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.60	.20	76	123	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Saharsa, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 235 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

A Jain heritage site in T.N. battles the elements

With much of the art in Sittanavasal either damaged or vandalised, Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken conservation measures and also introduced digital checks to track public access

SPECIAL

Nahla Nainar
TIRUCHI

A small village in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu was a major centre of Jain influence for 1,000 years just before the Christian era.

Sittanavasal is the name used synonymously for the hamlet and the hillock that houses the Arivar Kovil (temple of Arihats – Jains who conquered their senses), Ezhadipattam (a cavern with 17 polished rock beds), megalithic burial sites and the Navachunai tarn (small mountain lake) with a submerged shrine.

This Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-administered site, popular with youngsters and school excursion groups, is in need of better upkeep.

"Sittanavasal is the only place in Tamil Nadu where we can see Pandya paintings. At least three-fourths of the art is already damaged, so it is important to protect the site for future generations," R. Kalaikovan, founder of the Tiruchi-based Dr. M. Rajamanikkanar Centre for Historical Research, told *The Hindu*.

The artwork on the ceiling of the sanctum and the *ardha mandapam* of Arivar Kovil is an early example of post-Ajanta cave paintings of the fourth to sixth centuries, done using the fresco-secco technique (a process that dispenses with preparation of the wall with wet plaster).

Fading away: The artwork at the Sittanavasal rock cave temple in Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu. M. MOORTHY

The ceiling paintings show *'bhavyas'* (exalted souls who work to achieve *moksha* or spiritual liberation) enjoying themselves in a pool, full of lotuses; today much of it is obscured by patchy plastering. Faint outlines linger of dancing girls on the '*ardha mandapam*' pillars. The pillars of the verandah (added by the Maharaja of Pudukottai in the 1900s), were brought from Kudumiyanmalai. The colours are a mixture of plant dyes and mineral elements such as lime, lamp black, and clay pigments such as ochre for yellow and terre verte for the greyish-green tints.

> Sittanavasal is more precious because its paintings will be gone in another 50 years
>
> **S. SWAMINATHAN**
> Author and history enthusiast

Unrestricted public access and general exposure to the elements have led to a gradual fading away of these paintings. At the Ezhadipattam, inscriptions have been vandalised beyond recognition.

CCTV cameras soon

T. Arun Raj, Director, ASI, Tiruchi Circle, told *The Hindu* that periodic maintenance by way of repairs and chemical preservation (for restoring paintings) is being undertaken.

To stem the damage, the ASI has introduced electronic ticketing that helps track visitor numbers. "The average footfall is around 200-300 a day. We are planning to increase the number of security guards besides installing closed circuit TV cameras soon," said Mr. Raj.

"Though there are many examples of Jain sites in Pudukottai district, Sittanavasal is more precious because its paintings will be gone in another 50 years. Perhaps recreating them outside in separate pavilions and limiting the shrines for research visits would be a better way to preserve them," said S. Swaminathan, a Chennai-based history enthusiast and former IIT professor, who has written a book on important heritage spots in Pudukottai.

ED justifies summons to former Kerala FM in masala bond case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

T.M. Thomas Isaac

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) submitted before the Kerala High Court on Friday that it is the only competent authority to probe matters under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 and Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 and that it began a probe on the rupee-denominated bonds overseas (masala bonds) issued by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board based on a complaint about the (alleged) contravention of FEMA.

The counter-affidavit was in response to a writ filed by former Kerala Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac challenging the ED serving him summons to appear before it. The ED says the bonds must comply with the guidelines under external commercial borrowings and trade credit under FEMA.

It said the summons was issued to Dr. Isaac under FEMA, the IT Act and the CPC and that the ED officials concerned enjoyed the same powers as IT officers. The petitioner ought to have cooperated with the probe since it is in its preliminary stage, it said.

Villagers save infant from stray dogs

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

A just born baby, abandoned by the mother, was rescued by villagers from a pack of street dogs in Agiripalli village, on the outskirts of Vijayawada, on Saturday.

On receiving information, officials of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) of the Women Development and Child Welfare Department rushed to the village and shifted the infant to Government General Hospital, Vijayawada. According to sources, the villagers found the baby covered in blood in bushes and canines surrounded the infant. Locals, who rushed to the spot saved the male baby. Paediatricians were monitoring the health condition of the infant, said CWC Chairperson K. Suvartha. Police will register a case.

Opposition must unite to show BJP the door: Yechury

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Red signal: CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury addressing the party's 'Desa Rakshana Bheri' in Vijayawada. G N RAO

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury has stressed the need for a secular front to show the Narendra Modi government at the Centre the door, saying that "India is never in such dire straits in the 75 years of its Independence," and warns that unless the anti-BJP forces come together, the country will be doomed.

"The Constitution itself is under attack," Mr. Yechury said, calling upon the opposition parties to emerge as a secular alternative to the BJP.

Addressing a public meeting as part of the party's nationwide 'Desa Rakshana Bheri' in Vijayawada on Saturday, Mr. Yechury demanded that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy make it clear whether he intended to join the secular forces in the fight against the "autocratic regime of Mr. Narendra Modi", or extend tacit support to the BJP-led ruling coalition at the Centre.

Also, Mr. Reddy should fight for the State's legitimate claim to Special Category Status (SCS), which had been promised on the floor of Parliament, and for implementation of the A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014, in letter and spirit, Mr. Yechury said.

Attacks on properties belonging to BJP functionaries continue in Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The attack on the properties of BJP functionaries by miscreants continued for the third day in the State.

On Saturday, unidentified persons set fire to a car of a BJP functionary near Sathyamangalam in Erode district. Police said the car belonged to Siva Sekar, 55, a former BJP propaganda cell president of Punjai Puliampatti Municipality. On Friday night, he parked his car near his house, and around 1 a.m., a nearby resident called him and said his car was on fire. When alerted, the Sathyamangalam Fire and Rescue Service reached the spot and extinguished the fire. However, the car was damaged completely.

Vehicle gutted: The car of a BJP functionary, which was set ablaze by unidentified persons near Sathyamangalam in Erode on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Punjai Puliampatti police have registered a case, and found two youths passing through the road at the time of the incident through a CCTV footage. They suspect that the duo might be involved in the incident. On Thursday, some unidentified persons hurled petrol and diesel packets at a furniture shop of a BJP functionary in Moolapalayam.

In another incident on Saturday, vehicles at a godown of a BJP functionary at Kudaiparaipatti in Dindigul were allegedly set ablaze by two unidentified persons. Police said three bikes and a car were gutted and two other two-wheelers were partially burnt.

BJP Councillor and Dindigul District (East) president, G. Dhanabalan, alleged that the Popular Front India (PFI) cadre were involved in the crime.

Attempt foiled

Unidentified persons attempted to damage vehicles belonging to a BJP functionary, Manoj Kumar, in Ramanathapuram, and fled the spot when security personnel raised an alarm late on Friday night.

Superintendent of Police P. Thangadurai visited the spot. Preliminary inquiries revealed that Mr. Kumar had organised a blood donation camp in view of the 72nd birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Police said in reprisal for the arrests of functionaries of the PFI and and the Social Democratic Party of India by the NIA sleuths, the cadre of the organisations might have indulged in the act.

RSS worker targeted

Unidentified persons allegedly hurled a molotov cocktail at a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) functionary's house in Chitlapakkam in Chennai on Saturday.

ISRO eyeing 200th successful launch of Rohini RH-200 sounding rocket in a row

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a few weeks' time, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) hopes to achieve a remarkable feat – the 200th successful launch of the Rohini RH-200 sounding rocket in a row.

The 3.5-metre-tall RH-200, a trusted member of the Rohini sounding rocket family used by the ISRO for atmospheric studies, has completed 198 consecutive successful flights, according to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thumba.

The 199th launch, from Thumba, will happen on October 7 during the World Space Week celebrations. The 200th will take place either towards the end of October or the beginning of November, VSSC Director S. Unnikrishnan Nair told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

An RH-200 lifting off from Thumba in 2014.

"When RH-200 was first introduced, we were taking our baby steps in rocketry. So there was focus on aspects such as spin-stabilisation and solid motors, in addition to atmospheric studies. Sounding rockets have since been used for a variety of experiments, including those on phenomena related to eclipses," Dr. Unnikrishnan Nair said.

RH-200 is a two-stage rocket capable of climbing to a height of 70 km bearing scientific payloads. The first and second stages of RH-200 are powered by solid motors. The '200' in the name denotes the diameter of the rocket in mm. Other operational Rohini variants are RH-300 Mk-II and RH-560 Mk-III.

Sounding rockets have an important place in the ISRO story. The first sounding rocket to be launched from Thumba was the American Nike-Apache – on November 21, 1963. After that, two-stage rockets imported from Russia (M-100) and France (Centaure) were flown. The ISRO launched its own version – Rohini RH-75 – in 1967.

The sounding rocket programme "was indeed the bedrock on which the edifice of launch vehicle technology was built", the space agency has noted.

Today, these small rockets are launched both from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) and the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

The ISRO has launched more than 1,600 RH-200 rockets so far. The rocket celebrated its 100th consecutive successful mission on July 15, 2015. Over the years, the rocket has served as a flexible platform for experiments and testing out new technologies. For years, the RH-200 rocket had used a polyvinyl chloride (PVC)-based propellant. The first RH-200 to use a new propellant based on hydroxyl-terminated Polybutadiene (HTPB) was successfully flown from the TERLS in September 2020.

NIA gets custody of 11 PFI men charged under UAPA in Kochi

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

NIA special court reprimands activists for raising slogans on the court premises

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) special court in Kochi trying the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case registered against 13 Popular Front of India (PFI) activists handed over the custody of 11 activists arrested on Thursday to the agency till September 30.

This followed a custody application submitted by the NIA.

The court reprimanded the activists for raising slogans on the court premises on Saturday. They would again be produced before the special court in Kochi on September 30.

As per the remand report filed by the agency before the court on Friday, office-bearers, members, and affiliates of the PFI in Kerala encouraged vulnerable youths to join terrorist organisations, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Islamic State/Daesh, and al-Qaida and conspired to establish Islamic rule in India by committing terrorist acts as a part of violent jihad.

PFI hartal violence pre-planned, says Pinarayi

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Strident criticism of "police failure" to protect the public during the violent Popular Front of India (PFI) hartal reverberated across the political spectrum in Kerala on Friday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan called the violence pre-meditated guerilla-type attacks executed by masked persons travelling on motorbikes.

Mr. Vijayan urged the public to isolate minority and majority fundamentalist outfits whose objective is to divide society on communal lines for political dividend.

From Page One

Odisha's 'rich' Keonjhar poor in child health

At the Bansapal community health centre, six women were waiting for their delivery at the *maa gruha*. They had preferred this option compared to waiting at home as ambulances could not reach them in their villages in case of an emergency. As many as 128 children have been born in the community health centre so far this month. Except for two or three cases, most babies weighed around 2.5 kg at birth; some weighed only 2 kg. Low birth weight has been defined by the World Health Organization as weight at birth of less than 2.5 kg.

The irony is that Keonjhar is financially healthy. It has a ₹15,000 crore separate fund in its kitty, apart from the government's welfare funds. But it fares poorly compared to other districts in the State when it comes to health indices. Of the total 13.48 lakh families with stunted, wasted or underweight children and anaemic pregnant women in Odisha, 98,918 such families are from Keonjhar. According to the National Family Health Survey-5, 25.9% of women in Keonjhar have a Body Mass Index (BMI) below normal as against the State average of 20.8%. Similarly, 74.7% of pregnant women in Keonjhar were reported anaemic as against the State average of 61.8%.

Mohan Majhi, Keonjhar MLA and the BJP's Chief Whip in the Assembly, said, "According to the government, there are 5,525 villages which cannot be easily accessed in the State. Keonjhar has such 141 villages. Keonjhar accounts for 26% of the iron ore reserves of the country and it has ₹8,583 crore lying with the District Mineral Foundation. The corrupt administrations at the district and State levels are chasing misplaced priorities while Keonjhar's children are malnourished and becoming victim of diseases."

Tharoor set to file papers this week

In a significant political move, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi met senior leader Anand Sharma, another prominent G-23 leader, for an hour-long discussion on a range of issues, including the presidential poll and the forthcoming Assembly election in Himachal Pradesh.

The timing of the meeting is important as it comes in the middle of the party's electoral process. Mr. Sharma was among those leaders who had questioned the process of electing Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates that form the 9,000-strong electoral college to elect the All India Congress Committee (AICC) president.

A total of 10 PCC delegates are needed to endorse a candidate and such a person can file the nomination. However, the profile of the proposers of a particular candidate will certainly indicate the clout of the candidate. Sources in the Tharoor camp said they would collect signatures of delegates from across the country before filing the nomination, possibly on September 30, which is the last day of nomination.

Uttarakhand BJP expels kin of murder accused

After the massive protests, the government formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and escalated the probe. On the directive to demolish the resort of the accused, the Chief Minister said it was built on government and forest land.

Police probe found that days before Ms. Bhandari's disappearance, the victim had sent a chilling note to her close friend sharing her ordeal. "They are forcing me to provide extra service to hotel guests," wrote Ms. Bhandari.

The victim's father, Virendra Bhandari, alleged that when she went missing, he had to run from pillar to post to get an FIR registered via the revenue police. "Because the Patwari sat on our complaint and didn't act, I lost my daughter," said Soni Devi, the victim's mother.

Following the murder, Uttarakhand Speaker Ritu Khanduri wrote a letter to Mr. Dhami requesting him to end the Patwari police system. Uttarakhand is the only State that follows the system.

'India on side that respects UN charter'

"India is on the side of peace and will remain firmly there. We are on the side that respects the UN Charter and its founding principles," he said, but did not name Russia, which launched an invasion of Ukraine at the end of February this year.

"We are on the side that calls for dialogue and diplomacy as the only way out," Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that India was on the side "of those struggling with rising food, fuel and fertilizer costs". Mr. Jaishankar said it was in the collective interest to bring an early resolution to the conflict.

Without naming China, he criticised those that politicise the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) sanctions regime, saying that countries "defending proclaimed terrorists, do so at their own peril". Mr. Jaishankar made a strong pitch –as he has been doing through the week – for Security Council reform, which had widespread support, he said, because the current system was "anachronistic and ineffective".

(Report is based on remarks as prepared for delivery)

Operation Megh Chakra: 50 under CBI scanner over child pornography

Federal agency conducts pan-India searches after receiving inputs from Interpol's Singapore unit, which, in turn, got information from New Zealand authorities about the sale and circulation of child sexual abuse material online

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Many Indians are allegedly involved in the online circulation of such material using cloud-based storage. GETTY IMAGES

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday conducted searches at 59 locations across 20 States and one Union Territory, as part of a pan-India drive against the circulation and sharing of child sexual abuse material. The operation code-named "Megh Chakra" was carried out following the inputs received from the Interpol's Singapore special unit based on the information received from the authorities in New Zealand.

The CBI has registered two cases alleging that a large number of Indian nationals were involved in the online circulation, downloading and transmission of such material using cloud-based storage. Over 50 persons have come under the scanner.

The searches were carried out in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. The agency seized electronic devices belonging to the suspects.

A preliminary scrutiny of the devices using cyber-forensic tools allegedly revealed that a huge quantity of child pornography material was stored in them. "The suspects are being questioned to identify the victims and the abusers," said an official, adding that the operation was one of the CBI-led global operations in recent times for a prompt response to online child sexual exploitation cases with international linkages.

The official said the operation sought to collate information from various law enforcement agencies in India, engage with the relevant law enforcement agencies globally and coordinate closely through the Interpol channels on the issue.

Last November, the agency had launched a similar exercise code-named "Operation Carbon", searching the premises of suspects in 13 States and one Union Territory.

The previous operation was conducted at 76 locations. The persons named in the FIRs were booked under the relevant provisions of the IPC and the Information Technology Act, for allegedly being part of the syndicates that uploaded, circulated, sold and viewed such material.

The CBI had later decided to send requests to several countries for sharing and gathering information under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) on those involved in the racket.

The probe had led to the identification of over 50 groups with more than 5,000 offenders

Mahatma's ideals inspired Constitution, says Dhankar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of equality of all human beings regardless of caste and creed inspired the Constitution of India, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar said on Saturday while inaugurating the two-day Sadbhavana Conference in New Delhi, marking the 90th Foundation Day of Harijan Sevak Sangh, which was founded by Mr. Gandhi in 1932.

Mr. Dhankar said that the Gandhian ideals animated the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of the Constitution, adding that the Mahatma's teachings will remain eternally relevant to humanity.

While inaugurating the conference, the Vice-President also paid floral tributes to the Father of the Nation and Acharya Vinoba Bhave.

Millennium City marooned

Wading through: A truck passes through the waterlogged Delhi-Gurugram Expressway during heavy rain in Gurugram on Saturday. Delhi received 10 mm during the day till 5.30 p.m. PTI

36 killed in North India in heavy rain and lightning

Associated Press
LUCKNOW

Hazardous weather has killed at least 36 people in northern India over the past 24 hours, including 12 who were struck by lightning, officials said as they warned of more heavy downpours in the coming days. In Uttar Pradesh, at least 24 people died after their homes collapsed, Relief Commissioner Ranvir Prasad said.

Officials said 39 people in the State have died from lightning in the last five days, prompting authorities to issue new guidelines. Col. Sanjay Srivastava, whose organization Lightning Resilient India Campaign works with the Indian Meteorological Department, said that deforestation, the depletion of bodies of water, and pollution all contribute to climate change, which leads to more lightning. Global warming has also increased the frequency of lightning, said Sunita Narain, Director-General, at the Center for Science and Environment.

At DefExpo 2022, India-Africa defence dialogue on the anvil

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Expo earlier scheduled to be held in March was postponed due to 'logistical challenges'

The forthcoming DefExpo 2022, scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar from October 18 to 22, will host the second edition of the India-Africa Defence Dialogue with invites extended to 53 African countries. A separate Indian Ocean Region plus (IOR+) conclave with participation of approximately 40 countries is also on the anvil, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar reviewed the preparations of the Expo with Gujarat Chief Secretary Pankaj Kumar.

The Expo, earlier scheduled to be held in March, was postponed due to "logistical challenges" the Ministry had said.

For DefExpo 2022, Indian companies, Indian subsidiaries of foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers, Division of company registered in India, exhibitor having joint venture with an Indian company will be considered as Indian participants, the Ministry said.

The theme of DefExpo 2022 is 'Path to Pride' and the aim is to showcase the might of the domestic defence industry, which is now powering 'Make in India, Make for the World' resolve of the Government and the nation at large, the statement said.

UN Security Council reform is a central theme of India during UN high level week

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

India continued to push strongly for a reformed UN-led multilateral system during the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) 77th session opening here in New York.

On Friday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar participated in a meeting, 'Reinvigorating Multilateralism and Achieving Comprehensive Reform of the UN Security Council', with members of the UN reform-oriented 'L.69' group of developing countries, which resulted in a 'Call to Action' joint statement on reform.

"We reaffirm that adapting the United Nations to the contemporary world realities necessarily requires urgent and comprehensive reform of the Security Council, the principal organ for international peace and security," the statement said.

S. Jaishankar

The countries said they recognized that the "lack of progress" in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform had "serious implications" not just for the relevance of such institutions but also for global peace and security. The group is seeking an expansion of permanent and non-permanent membership to the UNSC, reform in the body's working methods and better representation of developing country aspirations, including African countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Friday's joint statement noted that these island comprise 20% of the United Nations' membership.

The group committed to push for UNSC reform during the 77th UNGA session via a "re-energized" intergovernmental negotiation process or the IGN process, which is the principal framework through which UNSC reform is discussed and debated.

J&K Police say two migrant workers shot at in Pulwama

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Two non-local migrant labourers were shot at and injured in Pulwama on Saturday. "Terrorists fired upon and injured two outside labourers at Kharpora Ratnipora in Pulwama," the police said.

The incident took place in the evening when the labourers had returned from the day's work.

The victims were identified as Shamshad and Faizan Qasri from Bihar's Batya Zila.

U.P. school principal shot at by student for scolding

Press Trust of India
SITAPUR

A student of a private school in U.P.'s Sitapur shot at his principal on Saturday after the latter scolded him following an altercation with a peer, police said. Ram Singh Verma was shot twice. The incident took place at Biswan. Gurinder Singh had a quarrel with another student. Later, Singh was scolded by Mr. Verma, said N.P. Singh, ASP, Sitapur.

Gurinder is absconding and efforts are on to trace him, police said.

India hits back at Pak. PM's criticism on Kashmir

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

India hit back at accusations made by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) address on Saturday, saying it was "regrettable" that he made false accusations against India.

"He has done so to obfuscate misdeeds in his own country and to justify actions against India that the world considers unacceptable," Indian diplomat, First Secretary Mijito Vinito, said during the 'Right of Reply' session following the conclusion of Friday's UNGA addresses.

Mr. Sharif had said that while Pakistan looks for peace with India, "sustainable peace and stability" in the region was contingent upon the resolution of the Kashmir issue. He brought up August 5, 2019, when India abrogated Article 370 (special status for Jammu and Kashmir).

"A polity that claims it seeks peace with its neighbours would never sponsor cross border terrorism. nor would it shelter planners of the horrific Mumbai terrorist attack, disclosing the existence only under pressure from the international community," Mr. Vinito said in his reply, adding, "Such a country would not make unjustified and untenable territorial claims against neighbours."

"In a classic settler colonial project, India is seeking to turn the Muslim majority Jammu and Kashmir into a Hindu territory through illegal demographic changes," Mr. Sharif had said, accusing India of seizing land from Kashmiris, gerrymandering and registering false voters.

In a segment on growing Islamophobia around the world, Mr. Sharif pointed to India.

"The officially sponsored campaign of oppression against India's over 200 million Muslims is the worst manifestation of Islamophobia," he said, adding, "They are subjected to discriminatory laws and policies, hijab bans, attacks on mosques and lynchings by Hindu mobs. I'm particularly concerned by the calls for genocide against India's Muslims by some extremists."

5 MPs want Tharoor to continue as IT panel chairman

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Tharoor, during the committee meetings, has had frequent run-ins with the BJP members

Five members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, including a Rajya Sabha member of the BJP, wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla advocating for the continuation of senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor as the panel's chairperson. This follows reports that in the latest reshuffle, he could lose the post.

According to sources, the government has conveyed to the Congress that in place of the IT committee, it will get the chairmanship of the Chemical and Fertilizers panel. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, floor leader for the Congress in the Lok Sabha, earlier wrote to Mr. Birla protesting against the move.

In a joint letter, Anil Agarwal (BJP), John Brittas (CPI-M), Karti Chidambaram (Congress), Mahua Moitra (Trinamool) and T. Sumathy (DMK) have cited the norm that the Chairman remains in office until the committee is dissolved. The members termed the decision "unfortunate".

"Withdrawal of the allocation of his role will be immensely unfortunate for the IT committee which believes in the values of strengthening democracy at a time when technology is enmeshed with freedom of expression, rightful criticism, and citizen's safety and welfare," the letter said.

Mr. Tharoor, during the committee meetings, has had frequent run-ins with the BJP members Nishikant Dubey and Rajyavardhan Rathore.

Mr. Chowdhury has shot off another letter to Mr. Birla saying that it has been conveyed to him in no uncertain terms that the decisions to take away the IT committee will not be reversed. "The government is reducing parliamentary committees to a farce if it is unprepared to deal with a committee chair doing his work seriously and professionally, and a committee serving as an independent voice that may not always be to the taste of the government," he wrote.

Congress Legislature Party in Rajasthan to meet today

Mallikarjun Kharge appointed observer to attend the discussions that will likely be on a new chief ministerial candidate to replace Ashok Gehlot, who is contesting the party president election

Sandeep Phukan
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Meet and greet: Sachin Pilot being greeted by supporters during his 45th birthday celebrations in Jaipur on September 6. PTI

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, along with AICC general secretary for Rajasthan Ajay Maken, was appointed observer by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to attend a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in Rajasthan on Sunday evening to discuss a new chief ministerial candidate, party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal tweeted late on Saturday.

The meeting comes a day after Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who is contesting the Congress presidential polls, said his successor to head the Rajasthan government will be decided by Ms. Gandhi and Mr. Maken.

The party's high command, including former party chief Rahul Gandhi, had made it clear that the "one man, one post" principle, adopted in the Udaipur Declaration, has to be followed. Sunday's CLP meeting is likely to decide the next leader to succeed Mr. Gehlot as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

In just 48 hours, the political equations in Jaipur have rapidly changed with legislators and Ministers supporting Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot making a beeline for the camp of former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot. Mr. Pilot is one of the possible candidates to replace Mr. Gehlot, who is contesting the Congress presidential election. On Friday, Mr. Pilot, who joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kerala for a day, returned to Jaipur, after a quick stop in Delhi to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Since his arrival in the State capital, one of his first meetings was with Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi, whose name had been doing the rounds as a possible replacement for Mr. Gehlot. Cabinet Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas and former MLA Raghu Sharma were present at the meeting.

One of the first to change his stance was Rural Development Minister Rajendra Gudha. "Now that Mr. Gehlot has now decided to become the Congress president, we will accept whoever the Delhi leadership chooses," he said.

On Saturday morning, Mr. Pilot met Sheo MLA Ameen Khan and Dhod MLA Parasram Mordia at his residence in Jaipur. Both these MLAs are considered to be in the Gehlot camp.

The others from the Gehlot camp who reportedly met him include Congress MLA Girraj Malinga and Independent MLA Khushveer Jojawar.

These meetings assume importance against the backdrop of Mr. Gehlot's insistence that his successor should be chosen after consultation with the Congress Legislature Party. Mr. Pilot has gone out of his way to reach out to all those in the Gehlot camp.

INBRIEF

BJP will be wiped out in 2024, says RJD chief Lalu Prasad

A day after BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a blistering attack on the Nitish Kumar-Lalu Prasad duo in Bihar's Purnia district, Mr. Prasad on Saturday said "BJP will be wiped out from the country in 2024".

Along with Nitish Kumar, Mr. Prasad is scheduled to meet Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in Delhi on Sunday evening. "He [Amit Shah] is perturbed as his government was wiped out from here [Bihar] and they [BJP] will now be wiped out from the country in 2024. So he [Mr. Shah] is running around and crying", Mr. Prasad told media persons.

BJP asks for CBI, NHRC probe into Bengal protest violence

The BJP accused the West Bengal Police of acting at the behest of the Trinamool Congress over the violence that took place during its *Nabanna Chalo* rally and has sought investigations by the CBI and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) into the incidents. The demand was in the report by a five-member fact-finding committee set up by party president J.P. Nadda, to whom the report was submitted on Saturday.

The report said over 750 people were injured in the use of force by police while 550 were "arbitrarily" arrested.

It also said the BJP march against the alleged corrupt practices of the State government was a "peaceful congregation of dedicated citizens" which, it alleged, was not acceptable to this "autocratic, dictatorial, and genocidal" regime in the State.

"Brutal and unparallel violence was perpetrated by police officers," it claimed.

Jaishankar meets Lavrov, discusses bilateral relations, exchanges views on Ukraine

Sriram Lakshman
NEW YORK

On the sidelines: Sergey Lavrov greets S. Jaishankar on the margins of the UN General Assembly on Saturday. REUTERS

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session on Saturday.

Mr. Jaishankar characterised the talks as "wide-ranging" on Twitter, saying they discussed bilateral cooperation, "exchanged views on Ukraine", the G-20 and UN reforms.

The Russian Foreign Ministry also tweeted that the meeting had occurred.

The photographs tweeted by Mr. Jaishankar and the Russian side were contrasting in the mood they appeared to convey - with the Russian photo, presumably taken as the meeting was just starting, showing the ministers and several other participants smiling.

Mr. Jaishankar's photo showed the teams in the middle of discussions.

India assumes the presidency of the Group of Twenty (G-20) countries on December 1. Reforming the U.N. Security Council has been one of the main themes of Mr. Jaishankar's current visit to New York. In his UNGA address after the meeting, Mr. Lavrov called India and Brazil "worthy" candidates for a permanent seat on the UNSC. The two countries, along with Japan and Germany, are part of the Group of Four (G-4) seeking permanent membership in the Security Council.

No sign of thaw in Punjab: Governor and CM continue to take a swipe at each other

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Purohit says Mann seems to be 'too much angry' and not adequately briefed by his legal advisors

The ongoing confrontation between Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) does not seem to give any sign of mellowing down.

On Saturday, Mr. Purohit hit back at Bhagwant Mann, saying he seems to be 'too much angry", and said the Chief Minister's legal advisers were not briefing him adequately.

Mr. Purohit on Friday sought details of the legislative business to be taken up in the proposed Assembly session on September 27, by the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Terming the Governor's demand as 'too much', Mr. Mann said the consent of Governor or President before any session of legislature is a formality.

Responding to Mr. Mann's remark, Mr. Purohit has written to the Chief Minister, saying that "...it appears to me that perhaps you are 'too much' angry with me. Perhaps your [CM's] opinion about me will definitely change after reading the provisions of Article 167 and 168 of the Constitution," he wrote.

'Kashmir's Muslim identity being undermined'

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU), an amalgam of religious and social groups in the Kashmir Valley, on Saturday said attempts were underway "to undermine the Muslim identity of Kashmir".

The MMU organised a meeting in Srinagar's Jama Masjid to discuss the recent alleged measures to start singing Hindu hymns and Surya Namaskar in educational institutes of the Valley. "The diktats related to Hindu hymns and *Surya Namaskar* hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims. Unfortunate attempts are being made to undermine the Muslim identity of Kashmir by asking Muslim students in schools and educational institutions to sing them," an MMU spokesperson said.

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित)
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
(Estb. by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Advt. No.: IISERB/DOAA/2022/02 September 25, 2022

Ph.D. Admission for Academic Year 2022-23

Applications are invited for the semester commencing from January 2023.

Programme for National Students

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Programme for International Students

Disciplines: Biological Sciences, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Data Science and Engineering, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Humanities and Social Sciences (English, Sociology/Social Anthropology, Science and Technology Studies and Philosophy) and Physics.

Details of qualification, eligibility, application form and application procedure are available on https://www.iiserb.ac.in/doaa/admission

Last Date for Submission of Application: October 24, 2022
(Updates, if any, shall be notified on the Institute website)

शैक्षणिक अधिष्ठाता

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING
6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW-UTTAR PRADESH

No. ME-3/PG-2022/2203 Lucknow Dated : 24.09.2022

THE TIME SCHEDULE OF FIRST ROUND OF ONLINE COUNSELING OF UP NEET PG-2022

The Time Schedule for the Admission through Online counselling in the State Uttar pradesh for Government/Private Medical/Dental Colleges/ Institutions/Universtites/Hospitals of Medical Health for Postgraduate courses (MD/MS/ Diploma/DNB/MDS) is as follows :-

Date of Online Registration	26.09.2022 (From 2:00 PM) To 28.09.2022 (Till 2:00 PM)
Date of Online Registration fee submission	26.09.2022 (From 2:00 PM) To 28.09.2022
Date of Online Security fee submission	26.09.2022 (From 2:00 PM) To 29.09.2022
Expected date of Declaration of Merit List	28th /29th September 2022
Date of Online Choice Filling	29.09.2022 (From 2:00 PM) to 02.10.2022 (Till 02:00 PM)
Declaration of result of seat allotment	03rd/04th October 2022
Date for downloading allotment letters and admission date	05.10.2022 to 08.10.2022

- Candidates can apply online by visiting the website https://upneet.gov.in
- For registration candidate will use his/her NEET-PG roll no. and email ID (same that was used for registration in NEET PG-2022/ NEET MDS-2022) for login into the system and follow the instructions on the screen.
- Registration fee **Rs. 3000/- (Three Thousand)** deposit via online mode is mandatory. Also deposit online security fee **Rs. 30,000/-** (Thirty Thousands). for Govt. Medical/Dental Colleges, **Rs. 2,00,000/-** (Two Lakhs) for Pvt. Medical Colleges & **Rs. 1,00,000/-** (One Lakhs) for Pvt. Dental Colleges.
- Candidates who want to avail PWD reservation in PG seats of Govt. state medical instituitions should obtain Disability certificate as per 21 Benchmark Disabilities given under RPWD Act 2016 as per NMC norms, from the designated disability centres. The certificate issued by any other hospital/board will not be accepted.
- For further important and detailed information kindly visit the website, https://upneet.gov.in & www.dgme.up.gov.in

DIRECTOR GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
UDITNAGAR, ROURKELA, ODISHA - 769012
E-mail ID : rourkelamunicipality@gmail.com

RFP Notice No. 12487 Date: 23.09.22

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PORTABLE PREFAB MODULAR CAFETERIA COTTAGES UNDER ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from the reputed Intending Agencies / Suppliers / Bidders for Design, Supply and Installation of 02 Nos. of Portable Prefab Modular Cafeteria Cottages under Rourkela Municipal Corporation.

The RFP is to be submitted in closed covers addressed to the Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation, Uditnagar, Rourkela, Dist.-Sundargarh (Odisha), PIN-769012 on or before **11.10.2022 by 1.00 PM** through Speed Post / Registered Post / Courier / or by Hand.

The complete RFP document can be downloaded from the RMC website (**www.rmc.nic.in**) from **24.09.22** onwards.

Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the RFP without assigning any reason thereof.

Commissioner,
Rourkela Municipal Corporation

C-1283: OIPR-13131/11/0101/2223

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग खण्ड नोखा

क्रमांक:-1728-35 दिनांक:-19.09.2022

(DIPR/C/11384/ 2022)

संशोधन ई-बोली सूचना संख्या 09/2022-23

इस कार्यालय की ई-बोली सूचना संख्या 09/2022-23 Major Repair work on Various Roads of Municipal Board Nokha कार्य की निविदा में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है:-

क्र.स.	विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित	संशोधन जो अब पढ़ा जावे
1	बोली आवेदन/ डाउनलोड करने की तारीख	01.09.2022 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 20.09.2022 को सायं 6.00 बजे तक	01.09.2022 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 04.10.2022 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
2	बोली जमा कराने की तारीख	01.09.2022 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 20.09.2022 को सायं 6.00 बजे तक	01.09.2022 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 04.10.2022 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
3	ऑनलाईन बोली खोलने की तारीख	22.09.2022 मध्यान्ह: 1.00 बजे	07.10.2022 मध्यान्ह 1.00 बजे
4	बोली शुल्क एवं धरोहर राशि जमा कराने की तारीख	21.09.2022 को सायं 6.00 बजे	06.10.222 सायं 6.00 बजे

शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

UBN: PWD2223WSOB06643, PWD2223WSOB06644
(DIPR/C/11384/2022)

अधिशासी अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. खण्ड नोखा

DIPR/C/12265/2022

National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T)
An Institution of National Importance (Formerly Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology - IIFPT)
Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613005
www.niftem-t.ac.in Ph: 04362-226676

Advertisement No. NIFTEM-T/Director/2022/1 Dated: 23.09.2022

Appointment of Director, NIFTEM - Thanjavur

National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T) (formerly Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology - IIFPT) is a pioneer Research and Educational Institution under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India. NIFTEM-T has attained the Institute of National Importance (INI) status by NIFTEM Act 2021.

Applications for the post of Director are invited on a tenure basis through open selection. Eligible candidates who are exceptionally bright and motivated, committed, result oriented professionals who will share the vision of the Institute with passion to match global standards are encouraged to apply.

For Details regarding Qualifications, Experience, General Conditions, Pay Scales, Application Format etc., please visit our website www.niftem-t.ac.in.

Interested candidates should send their applications in prescribed format through Registered post / speed post and online at registrar@iifpt.edu.in. **Duly filled applications along with necessary documents may be sent by post to the office of the Registrar, NIFTEM - Thanjavur within 45 days from the date of issue of this advertisement in the Employment News.**

Registrar

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER
Tender Notice No. 20-CECNMS-OT-E-290000 dated 19-09-2022
Tender Notice No. 21-CECNMS-OT-E-290003 dated 19-09-2022
Tender Notice No. 22-CECNMS-OT-E-289996 dated 19-09-2022

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

NAME OF THE WORK

Proposed new BG line connecting Nagapattinam and Tiruthuraipundi (via)Tirukkuvalai. Earthwork in forming bank duly providing and installation of band drain in CH.23100 to CH.27100 between Nagapattinam and Tirukkuvalai. (TWO PACKET SYSTEM).

Proposed new BG line connecting Nagapattinam and Tiruthuraipundi (via) Tirukkuvalai. Earthwork in forming bank duly providing and installation of band drain in CH.31100 to CH.35400 including Construction of retaining wall in Ch:31/200 - 31/450 between Nagapattinam and Tiruthuraipundi (TWO PACKET SYSTEM).

Proposed new BG line connecting Nagapattinam and Tiruthuraipundi (via)Tirukkuvalai. Earthwork in forming bank duly providing and installation of band drain, Construction of retaining wall in CH.3000 to CH.8000 between Nagapattinam and Tiruthuraipundi. (TWO PACKET SYSTEM).

Cash Value (Rupees)	Bid Security/ EMD (Rupees)	Period of Completion in months	Closing Date @ 15.30 hrs
215446793.27	1227200.00	12	11-10-2022
216929034.93	1234700.00	12	11-10-2022
140389289.34	852000.00	12	11-10-2022

For further details, please refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Chief Engineer (Construction), Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

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INBRIEF

Farmers end protest after procurement assurance

A day after they blocked National Highway 44 in Haryana's Shahbad in support of their demands, the protesting farmers under the banner of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Chaduni) ended the agitation on government's assurance. BKU (Chaduni) president Gurnam Singh told presspersons on Saturday that farmers decided to end the protest and lift the blockade after an assurance by the government to consider purchasing 30 quintals of paddy an acre against the earlier decision of buying 22 quintals. Paddy crop procurement is set to start on October 1.

Include Muslims under Child Marriage Act, says BMMA

The Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA), a secular mass organisation that works for the welfare of Muslim women, demanded that the incidents of child marriages in the Muslim community should be registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. At a press conference on Saturday in Mumbai, Noorejahan Safia Niaz, BMMA co-founder, demanded a codified Muslim family law and said, "While comprehensive legislation is yet to happen, the government must ensure that PCMA becomes expressly applicable to the Muslim community."

Bilkis Bano convict challenges petitions against remission

One of the 11 life convicts (10 in photo) released in the Bilkis Bano gang rape case has challenged the petitions filed in the Supreme Court against their remission as the "grossest abuse" of law. Radheyshyam Bhagwandas Shah, alias Lala Vakil, has filed a counter affidavit in the apex court, questioning the *locus standi* of these "third parties". He said the petitioners plead they do not have a copy of the remission order, yet they challenge it without ascertaining the reasons for grant of remission.

PM likely to launch 5G services on October 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may launch 5G services in India on October 1 at the annual technology conference Indian Mobile Congress (IMC), according to a tweet by the National Broadband Mission (NBM). However, the tweet was later deleted. The IMC is an annual event, which will see strong participation from industry. Mr. Modi will be inaugurating the conference on October 1. "Taking India's digital transformation & connectivity to new heights, Hon'ble PM, @narendramodi, will roll out 5G services in India; at India Mobile Congress; Asia's largest technology exhibition", the tweet said.

SUDOKU

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No.SS5570 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	8	1	3	2	9	5	4
2	3	9	4	8	5	6	1	7
1	5	4	6	7	9	2	3	8
7	8	5	9	6	3	4	2	1
4	6	3	7	2	1	8	9	5
9	2	1	5	4	8	7	6	3
3	9	7	2	5	4	1	8	6
5	4	2	8	1	6	3	7	9
8	1	6	3	9	7	5	4	2

'Chhello Show' is from my childhood: Pan Nalin

INTERVIEW

Sangeetha Devi Dundoo
HYDERABAD

"We were creating havoc abroad, but not many knew about our film in India," says Nalin Kumar Pandya, who is known in film circles as director Pan Nalin.

His Gujarati film *Chhello Show (The Last Film Show)* has been selected by the Film Federation of India (FFI) as India's official entry for the 95th Academy Awards in the Best International Feature Film Category, over popular favourites such as *RRR* and *The Kashmir Files*.

Chhello Show premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival 2021, won the Golden Spike award at the Valladolid International Film Festival in Spain, and received attention in several other festivals; the film is scheduled to release in India on October 14.

During a brief visit to Hyderabad for a screening hosted by actor-producer Lakshmi Manchu, Pan Nalin and one of the film's producers Dheer Momaya spoke to *The Hindu* about the film and the Oscar campaign.

The FFI's selection took Mr. Nalin by surprise. After the international festivals, his attention was on the theatrical release within the country.

"Our film was censored in December 2021. But several films, including ours, had to push back release plans due to the Omicron wave. Finally Roy Kapur Films, which had picked up the distribution rights, decided to release it on September 14."

Mr. Nalin had begun hosting private screenings in different cities in India to get the film some visibility. Screenings were held in Chennai and Auroville, Puducherry, recently.

"The FFI announcement has changed our plans, but in a good way. I was overwhelmed when I learnt that *Chhello Show* was the unanimous choice of 17 FFI jury members," says Mr. Nalin.

Publicity effort: Producer Dheer Momaya and director Pan Nalin in Hyderabad for the screening of *Chhello Show*. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Chhello Show's story draws from Mr. Nalin's childhood and is his love letter to celluloid. The director who is recognised for his films *Samsara, Valley of Flowers* and *Angry Indian Goddesses*, says he never imagined that he would make a semi-autobiographical drama.

He grew up in Kathiawar, Gujarat, watching Hindi masala movies. In 2011, when he visited his hometown, his parents asked him to visit Mohammad *bhai*, a projection operator whom Mr. Nalin had known as a child: "We used to swap lunch boxes and the theatre where he worked is where I got interested in cinema. He was in despair since cinema was going digital and he did not understand new technology. The idea of *Chhello Show* was born from such anecdotes. About 60% to 70% of the story is from my childhood and the rest of it comes from Dheer's, who grew up in Kutch. To be specific, *Chhello Show* is a Kathiawari film."

> Consciously and subconsciously, I have paid homage to *Cinema Paradiso* and several other films
>
> **PAN NALIN,** Director

Some social media users were quick to conclude that *Chhello Show* is inspired by *Cinema Paradiso*. Broach that topic and Mr. Nalin says he was aware of the possible comparisons while making the film. "I have made a film that is rooted in Kathiawar, with some of the actors from the region. Any film about cinema can have parallels to *Cinema Paradiso*, which is one of my favourite films. Consciously and subconsciously, I have paid homage to *Cinema Paradiso* and several other films. An ardent cinephile would be able to identify some of the Easter eggs in the narrative."

Mr. Nalin cites some of the warm reviews he has received abroad, including one which called *Chhello Show* a spiritual successor to *Cinema Paradiso*. "If our film is a copy or inspired by *Cinema Paradiso*, we would not have found distributors in Italy, Spain, Russia, Europe, the U.S.A. or Japan."

Oscar fever

A few months ago, the team screened the film to director Ashutosh Gowarikar, whose *Lagaan* was the last Indian film to be nominated in the Best International Feature Film category at the Academy Awards. Mr. Nalin recalls how Mr. Gowarikar told them, 'tuxedo *banado* (make your tuxedos), you are going to the Oscars'. Mr. Nalin adds, "People have to judge after watching our film."

The Oscar campaign has just begun to heat up. The film has also drawn attention at the Mill Valley Film Festival in California, the U.S., where some of the Academy members saw the film. "We will be stepping up the campaign...," state Mr. Nalin and Mr. Dheer.

No viable options: farmers in Punjab forced to persist with paddy, go against the grain

Growers in the State are keen on shunning the water-guzzling crop and cultivate alternatives, but the absence of an assured market and guaranteed returns, apart from the input costs required for the changeover, is acting as a deterrent to them

A.M. Jigeesh
BATHINDA

Pruning poplar trees on his three-acre field on the banks of the Sutlej at Maniewal village, about 30 km from Ludhiana, in Punjab, Raghvir Singh, 53, explains why he stopped growing paddy.

Mr. Singh says a change in the flow plan of the Buddha Nullah, which merges with the Sutlej, caused industrial effluents from Ludhiana to enter the canal and pollute the water used for irrigation. "Several farmers like me were forced to make the switch from rice cultivation owing to the dearth of clean water. I planted the trees three years ago," he says.

A poplar tree, whose wood is used in the plywood industry, provides about five quintals of wood over five to 10 years. Each quintal fetches ₹500 to ₹700, he says. "This can compensate for the shift from paddy to an extent, but we don't have an assured market and have to depend on private traders and agents," he says.

Rice growers in the State say they are keen on shunning the water-guzzling crop and cultivating alternative crops, reduce input costs and prevent stubble burning. However, the lack of assured procurement and guaranteed returns are forcing them to persist with paddy.

Contamination woes: Farmer Baljinder Singh shows the poor quality of water being used for agriculture at Dhaula Village in Punjab. R.V. MOORTHY

Traditionally, Punjab was not a rice-producing State. Farmers began cultivating paddy during the Green Revolution. Of the 881.32 lakh tonnes of paddy procured in the ongoing kharif season, as of August 31, 125.48 lakh tonnes has come from Punjab. Around 31.33 lakh hectares of land in the State is under paddy cultivation.

To produce a kilogram of rice and wheat, 5,000 litres and 2,500 litres of water is required, respectively, leading to the overexploitation of groundwater. Several farmers' organisations have been supporting the efforts of the Centre and the State to implement crop diversification and demand that the crops that replace paddy be procured at the minimum support price.

Farmers began cultivating paddy in Punjab only during the Green Revolution

"With paddy cultivation, a system of agriculture was imposed on us. Farmers had to buy new machinery, fertilizers and pesticides. A new market system was introduced. Now, farmers can't go back to growing other crops," says Joginder Singh Ugrahan, president of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan), one of the largest farmers' groups in the State.

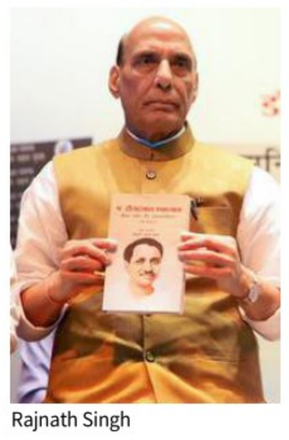
Ajmer Singh Brar, Principal Agronomist (water management), Punjab Agriculture University, says water shortage owing to overexploitation of groundwater poses the biggest threat. He says adoption of less water-intensive crops such as maize, cotton and certain fruits would be possible only with government's financial and technical support.

Dr. Brar says paddy cultivation is affecting the sowing of wheat too. "In several fields, the formation of hardpan is impairing plant growth as it prevents roots from absorbing water and nutrients from the soil. Specific tractors have to be used to break the hardpan before sowing wheat. This adds to the farmers' input cost."

In Fazilka, once known as the 'California of Punjab' for its rich varieties of cotton, fruit and grains, farmers growing cotton, fruit and sugar cane are not finding any support.

Jagtar Singh, a farmer near Abohar, says, "I tried growing vegetables without success. I incurred a loss of around ₹2 lakh last year. My father had made the shift from paddy to vegetables in 2005, but he also suffered losses. Debts are mounting. We are forced to cultivate paddy."

He adds that cotton growers are also finding it tough to sell their produce as two mills have moved out of the district.



Rajnath Singh

'Upadhyaya was first to bat for nuclear deterrent'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was the first to pitch the idea that India should have a credible nuclear deterrent and because of that deterrent, the Indian Army engages with China as an equal force, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.

Praising the philosophy and ideas of Pandit Upadhyaya, Mr. Singh said that apart from various social issues, he had also thought deeply about the defence of the nation.

He believed that the country should be capable of self-defence.

"When China conducted the first nuclear test in 1964, Deendayal *ji* was in favour of India too carrying out a nuclear test," said Mr. Singh, who added that following the vision of Pandit Upadhyaya, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee carried out five nuclear tests in Rajasthan in 1998.

A judge at the centre of political debate in Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Over the past few months, politics in West Bengal has been rocked by a recruitment scam in which a high-profile politician and several officials have been arrested. However, it is a Calcutta High Court judge who has emerged at the centre of prevailing political storm. In the past one year, Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay gave at least 10 orders directing the CBI to investigate irregularities in the recruitment carried out by the West Bengal School Service Commission.

The latest uproar has been around his interview on September 20 to a Bengali television news channel ABP Ananda. While the legal experts are divided as to whether a sitting High Court judge handling high-profile cases can give interviews to news channels, the judge's statements created further buzz in political circles.

In the interview, he said that Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee should be jailed for three months for alleging that a section of the judiciary was hand in glove with the BJP. "...whatever I am doing is as per the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, which states that judges have freedom of expression but whatever they say has to be under the purview of law," Justice Gangopadhyay said.

The judge has often worked with the 'end of day' rule.

Even if the Supreme Court criticises him and he is removed from judiciary, he will stand by what he has done because "corruption has destroyed India", he said.

A petition was filed before the Division Bench of Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava and Justice Rajarshi Bhardwaj to stop the telecast of the interview. The court refused, stating that "the petition is based upon mere apprehension".

This is not the first time that Justice Gangopadhyay has been the centre of debate in political circles of the State. In August this year, there was a heated exchange between him and a section of lawyers of the Calcutta High Court during a hearing of the recruitment scam.

In March, when his order on CBI inquiry in the recruitment scam was stayed by a Division Bench, he wrote to the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court saying his hands were "being tied again and again", and urged them to "look into the matter and probe the ongoing corruption".

On several instances, Justice Gangopadhyay had directed the CBI to file FIRs by "the end of the day", and asked senior officials, president of Boards and commissions and even a Minister to report to the agency for investigation within hours of the order.

While the Trinamool leadership has not reacted to the judge's remarks, job seekers who are demanding jobs in State-run schools and holding regular protests since the recruitment scam came to light hailed him as a 'hero'.

MONTREAL

Storm Fiona knocks out power to more than 5 lakh homes in Canada

Vehicles passing under a fallen tree in Dartmouth in Canada on Saturday. Hurricane Fiona made landfall in eastern Canada's Nova Scotia on Saturday with maximum sustained winds of 144 kmph per hour and heavy rainfall. The storm knocked out power to more than 500,000 households. AP

WASHINGTON

Louise Fletcher of 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' fame dies at 88

Academy Award winning actress Louise Fletcher, who played Nurse Ratched in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," died on Friday at age 88. While she was best known for her portrayal of Ratched, Fletcher had an acting career that spanned more than six decades, including numerous appearances in television shows. AP

RIYADH

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Saudi Arabia on Gulf energy hunt

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia on Saturday. The meeting marks the start of a two-day Gulf tour, in the hope of sealing new energy deals with the fossil fuel exporters after the loss of supplies from Russia in the wake of the Ukraine war. REUTERS

MONTPELLIER

Airport shut after cargo aircraft overshoots runway, ends up in lake

The Aeropostale Boeing 737 aircraft after it overran the runway during its landing phase at night at Montpellier airport in France on Saturday. The airport has been closed for an indefinite period of time after the cargo plane went off the runway at night while landing without causing any injuries. AFP

Iran must deal decisively with protests: President

State television says 35 people killed in week-long demonstrations, while independent groups put the number at 50; Internet access restricted in 'curfew-style pattern of disruptions'

Reuters
DUBAI

Public anger: People taking part in a protest, following the death of Mahsa Amini, in front of the United Nations building in Erbil in Iraq on Saturday. REUTERS

Iran must deal decisively with protests which have swept the country after the death in custody of a woman detained by the Islamic Republic's morality police, President Ebrahim Raisi said on Saturday.

Thirty-five people have been killed in the week-long demonstrations, according to Iran's state television, with protest spreading to most of the country's 31 provinces. The casualties included five security personnel.

However, Iran Human Rights, an Oslo-based organisation, said that at least 50 people have been killed by security forces in the anti-government protests

On Friday, state-organised rallies took place in several Iranian cities to counter the anti-government protests, and the army promised to confront "the enemies" behind the unrest. State media quoted Mr. Raisi on Saturday as saying Iran must "deal decisively with those who oppose the country's security and tranquillity". Mr. Raisi was speaking by telephone to the family of a member of the Basij volunteer force killed while taking part in the crackdown on unrest in the northeastern city of Mashhad.

The President "stressed the necessity to distinguish between protest and disturbing public order and security, and called the events ... a riot," state media reported.

Internet access has been restricted in what web monitor NetBlocks has called a "curfew-style pattern of disruptions".

"Online platforms remained restricted and connectivity is intermittent for many users and mobile internet was disrupted for a third day on Friday," NetBlocks said.

Measures were taken in response to "the actions carried out via these social networks by counter-revolutionaries against national security", Iran's *Fars* news agency said.

Security forces have also arrested activists and journalists, with Sherif Mansour of U.S.-based media watchdog the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reporting 11 had been detained since Monday.

The protests broke out in northwestern Iran a week ago at the funeral of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman who died after falling into a coma following her detention by morality police enforcing hijab rules on women's dress. Her death has reignited anger over issues including restrictions on personal freedoms in Iran, the strict dress codes for women and an economy reeling from sanctions.

Women at forefront

Women have played a prominent role in the protests, waving and burning their veils. Some have publicly cut their hair as furious crowds called for the fall of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The protests are the largest to sweep the country since demonstrations over fuel prices in 2019, when *Reuters* reported 1,500 people were killed in a crackdown on protesters. It was the bloodiest confrontation in the Islamic Republic's history.

Iranian news agencies reported on Saturday that 739 protesters had been arrested in the northern province of Gilan, on the Caspian Sea. The activist Twitter account 1500tasvir said communication channels with the northwestern town of Oshnavieh had been cut off, and landlines were down.

Oshnavieh was one of several towns in northwest Iran, where most of the country's 10 million Kurds live, that held a strike on Friday. Kurdish rights group Hengaw posted a video it said showed protesters in control of parts of the town on Friday.

(with inputs from AFP)

Russian shelling kills three amid votes in breakaway Ukraine regions

Associated Press
KYIV

Amidst the rubble: A rescuer working at the site of a building damaged in Russian attacks in Zaporizhzhya on Saturday. REUTERS

Russian forces launched new strikes on Ukrainian cities as Kremlin-orchestrated votes took place in Ukraine's breakaway regions to create a pretext for their annexation by Moscow.

Ukraine's presidential office said the latest Russian shelling killed at least three persons and wounded 19. Oleksandr Starukh, the Ukrainian governor of Zaporizhzhya, one of the regions where Moscow-installed officials organised referendums on joining Russia, said a Russian missile hit an apartment building in the city of Zaporizhzhya, killing one person and injuring seven others.

Ukraine and its Western allies say the referendums underway in Kherson and Zaporizhzhya in the south and the eastern Luhansk and Donetsk regions have no legal force.

Illegitimate attempt

They alleged the votes were an illegitimate attempt by Moscow to seize Ukrainian territory stretching from the Russian border to the Crimean Peninsula.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said the voting "looked more like an opinion survey under the gun barrels," adding that Moscow-backed local authorities sent armed escorts to accompany election officials and to take down the names of individuals who voted against joining Russia.

'Inform on people'

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged Ukrainians in the Russia-held regions to undermine the referendums and to share information about the people conducting "this farce."

He also called on Russian recruits to sabotage and desert the military if they are called up under the partial troop mobilisation President Vladimir Putin announced on Wednesday.

Mr. Putin on Saturday signed a hastily approved bill that toughens the punishment for soldiers who disobey officers' orders, desert or surrender to the enemy.

History repeats

Rage of the youth: Demonstrators protesting against the disappearance of 43 college students pull the gates and barriers from a military base in Mexico City on Friday, days before the anniversary of the disappearance of the students in Iguala, Guerrero in 2014. One week prior, Mexican authorities said they arrested a retired General and three other members of the Army for alleged links to their disappearance. AP

Biden terminates Afghanistan's major non-NATO ally tag

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

The designation had helped the U.S. and Afghanistan maintain defence and economic ties

U.S. President Joe Biden has terminated the designation of Afghanistan as a major non-NATO ally, more than a year after the Taliban captured power in Kabul.

In 2012, the United States named Afghanistan a major non-NATO (MNNA) ally, which cleared the way for the two countries to maintain a defence and economic relationship.

The designation gave several facilities and concessions to Afghanistan in terms of defence and security-related assistance and equipment.

"By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961,...I hereby terminate the designation of Afghanistan as a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States for the purposes of the Act and the Arms Export Control Act," Mr. Biden said in a presidential memorandum to the Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The change in Afghanistan's status follows Biden's withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country last year, ending nearly 20 years of war.

China tells Russia, Ukraine not to let war 'spill over', reasserts Taiwan claim

Agence France-Presse
UNITED STATES

Wang Yi

China on Saturday at the United Nations urged Russia and Ukraine not to let effects of their war "spill over" and called for a diplomatic resolution.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi also sounded a fresh warning on Taiwan amid tensions in the Taiwan Strait, saying Beijing would take "forceful steps" to prevent any outside support for the island's independence.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, China's top diplomat stopped short of robustly supporting the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, nominally an ally of Beijing.

"We call on all parties concerned to keep the crisis from spilling over and to protect the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries," Mr. Wang said.

He called for "fair and pragmatic" peace talks to resolve all global issues.

"China supports all efforts conducive to the peaceful resolution of the Ukraine crisis. The pressing priority is to facilitate talks for peace," Mr. Wang said.

During his visit to the United Nations, Mr. Wang met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, in their first talks since Russia invaded its neighbor on February 24.

Earlier this month, Russian President Vladimir Putin acknowledged Chinese "concerns" about Ukraine during a meeting with his counterpart Xi Jinping.

Before the war, Mr. Putin had visited Beijing and the two nations declared a tight alliance.

China's reaction to Russia is being closely watched for clues on its approach to Taiwan, a self-governing democracy that Beijing claims as its territory.

Taiwan situation

Mr. Wang met on Friday with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and warned about efforts to back Taiwan, amid a push in the U.S. Congress to supply direct military assistance to the island.

Addressing the General Assembly, where only Beijing and not Taipei has a seat, Mr. Wang took a firm line in insisting on "reunification" with Taiwan.

"We must combat Taiwan independence separatist activities with the firmest resolve and take the most forceful steps to oppose external interference," Mr. Wang said.

Beijing says Taiwan was historically part of China and the mainland's defeated nationalists fled to Taipei after losing the civil war in 1949.

But Taiwan administers itself and many Taiwanese do not see a connection with China, although the Taipei leadership has stopped short of formally declaring independence.

Sri Lanka disperses student rally after partial protest ban

Agence France-Presse
COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan police dispersed hundreds of demonstrators on Saturday, a day after severely curtailing protest rights in response to months of unrest sparked by the island nation's sharp economic downturn.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe has taken a tough line against activists who forced his predecessor to flee the country and resign in July at the peak of the country's crisis.

Officers in anti-riot gear blocked the student march hours after the government declared the city centre a "high security zone", outlawing protests in the vicinity.

Police fired tear gas and water cannon to clear out the demonstrators, who were demanding the release of fellow activists detained under draconian anti-terror laws.

Mr. Wickremesinghe on Friday ordered a ban on all demonstrations and protests near key institutions, including his office and the homes of military top brass.

Sri Lanka's influential bar association condemned the ban and said it seriously undermined freedom of expression and assembly.

The edict "seeks to significantly curtail the liberty of the citizen, without any reasonable or legal basis," the association said in a statement.

New insights on the 'coffee-ring effect'

Shubashree Desikan

For about two decades now, the 'coffee ring effect' has been known as when a drop of spilt coffee dries up, the outermost edge of the dried drop is a little darker than the centre, forming a darker 'ring'. This is caused by the outward drift of suspended coffee particles from the centre, causing a denser, darkened rim. Now, researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, have shown that after reaching the rim, as the drop dries, some of the particles undergo an inward drift too. This research has applications in agriculture, forensic science and even disease diagnosis. The present work has been published in the journal, *Soft Matter*.

Inward drift

Taking polystyrene microbeads of diameters 3 microns, 5 microns and 10 microns, the researchers suspend them in clean water at concentration of 30,000 beads per microlitre for the first two sizes and 10,000 beads per microlitre for the last, and place a drop of the suspension on a glass plate. They are able to observe the inward drift. "After the particles reach the rim, they experience an inward drift and this is what we have newly discovered," says Madivla G. Basavaraj, Chemical Engineering Department and an author of the paper, in an email to *The Hindu*. He clarifies that while the inward drift would persist for sub-micron-sized particles, it would decrease with particle size.

Gapped coffee ring

The inward movement takes place because the particles are 'squished' between the solid plate and the evaporating liquid interface. Hence, the 'coffee' ring is not formed at the point where the liquid touches the solid, but there is a small gap between the outermost edge and the ring. "We could convert the rate of flattening of the interface to the rate of inward movement of the particles. Hence, we were able to predict the extent up to which the particles recede, namely the stain recedes," says Sumesh P. Thampi, also from the Chemical Engineering Department, and an author of the paper. Perhaps measuring the gap can help in forensics.

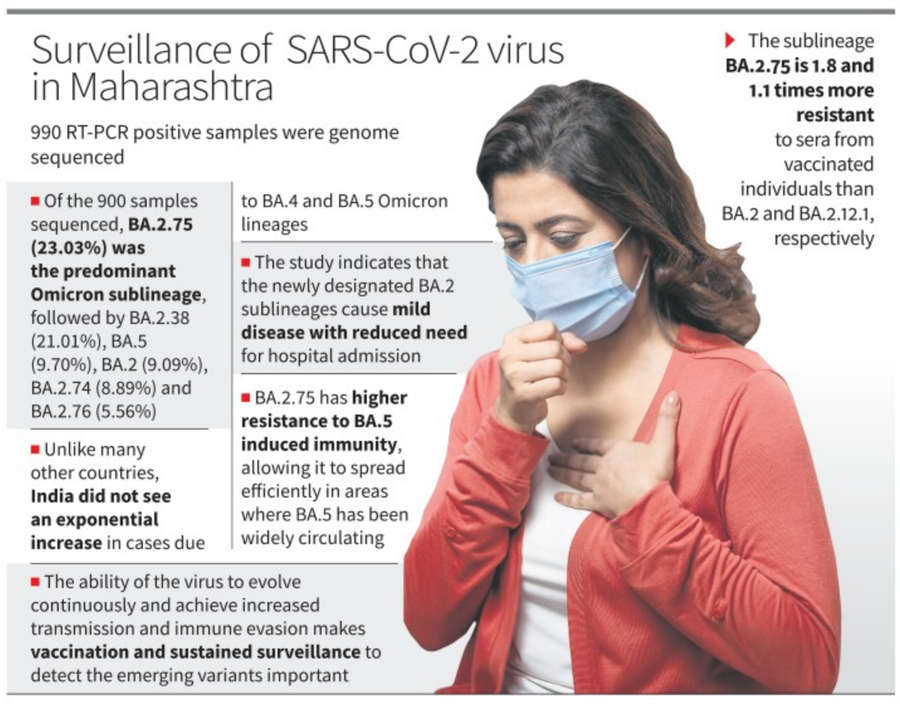
Prof. Basavaraj explains that some qualitative studies have shown that understanding the drying of biologically relevant fluids like blood can help diagnose anaemic and hyperlipidaemic conditions.

"One of the long-term goals of this team is to work with simulated [fluids] as well as blood drawn from different individuals with different conditions to come up with early diagnostic strategies," he says.

BA.2.75 emerges as major sublineage in Maharashtra

More mutations seen in BA.2.75 raise concerns about possible reduction in sensitivity to antibodies — monoclonal antibodies and from vaccination or natural infection

Rajesh Karyakarte
Rashmita Das



Since the first case of SARS-CoV-2 in March 2020, India has witnessed three pandemic waves. Delta (B.1.617.2) and its sublineages caused the second wave, and Omicron (B.1.1.529) and its sublineages (BA.1 and BA.2) are driving the third wave. After the waning of the third wave, India saw a surge in COVID-19 cases from May 2022. On sequencing, these variants were characterised as BA.2 by Pangolin. However, the predominance of BA.2 after the waning of the third COVID wave was unexplainable. Subsequently, the Indian isolates of BA.2 were further classified into sub-lineages BA.2.74, BA.2.75 and BA.2.76.

Since their designation, these new sub-lineages have already spread to over 40 countries. They have acquired additional mutations in their spike protein compared to BA.2. These added mutations, over and above those of the parental BA.2 variant, have raised concerns about their impact on viral pathogenicity, transmissibility, and immune evasion properties of the new variants.

We have been the coordinating laboratory for the surveillance of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the community in Maharashtra. During our study, a total of 990 RT-PCR positive SARS-CoV-2 samples, with a cycle threshold value (Ct) of less than 25, were processed for whole genome sequencing between June 3 and August 7, 2022. A set of individual-level data was obtained corresponding to the samples.

Out of 990 samples sequenced, BA.2.75 (23.03%) was the predominant Omicron sublineage, followed by BA.2.38 (21.01%), BA.5 (9.70%), BA.2 (9.09%), BA.2.74 (8.89%) and BA.2.76 (5.56%). When the world was experiencing the latest global outbreak driven by the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron lineages, India did not see an exponential increase in cases due to these two lineages. This probably could be as both Delta and BA.4/BA.5 share the L452R mutation on the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of spike protein, the convalescent sera from Delta infection may contain L452R-specific neutralising antibodies, which could have impaired the BA.4/BA.5 transmission in India.

Also, BA.2.75 has shown 57-fold higher binding affinity to ACE2 receptors when compared with BA.5, accounting for its higher transmissibility. Another study in a small sample of plasma from post-vaccination Delta infection shows that BA.2.75 is more immune evasive than the BA.4/BA.5 lineages in the Delta-stimulated immune background, which explains why BA.2.75 has a growth advantage over BA.4/BA.5 in India.

The current study indicates that these newly designated BA.2 sublineages caused mild disease with reduced need for hospital admission. Out of 228 cases of BA.2.74, BA.2.75 and BA.2.76 contacted by telephone, 94.30% were symptomatic with mild symptoms, and 5.70% had no symptoms. Around 85.53% cases recovered at home, and 14.47% cases were institutionally quarantined. Recovery with conservative treatment was seen in 92.98% of cases, while 4.83% required additional oxygen therapy.

Only 1.32% cases had poor outcomes resulting in death, and the remaining 98.68% had a good outcome. In animal models, BA.2.75 replicated more efficiently in the lungs of hamsters than other Omicron variants causing focal pneumonia characterised by patchy inflammation in alveolar regions. The fact that subvariant BA.2.75 contains mutations greater than BA.2 and BA.4/BA.5 raise concerns regarding the possibility of reduced sensitivity to therapeutic monoclonal antibodies and antibodies developed by vaccination/natural infection. Among the 228 cases studied, 96.05% cases were vaccinated with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine; of these 72.60% had received both doses, 26.03% had also received the precautionary booster dose, while 1.37% had received one dose.

Various studies on the evasion of neutralising antibodies have found that BA.2.75 is 1.8 and 1.1 times more resistant to sera from vaccinated individuals than BA.2 and BA.2.12.1, respectively. Also, BA.2.75 has higher resistance to BA.5 induced immunity.

These second-generation variants have the potential to be successfully transmitted across several countries due to the presence of critical mutations and significant growth advantages. It is, however, unclear as to what extent the intrinsic virulence of the virus and the immunity due to vaccination or previous infections could have contributed to mild disease in India. The ability of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to evolve continuously and achieve increased transmission and immune evasion reinforces the importance of vaccination and sustained epidemiological surveillance to detect the emerging variants.

(The authors are from the Department of Microbiology, Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Government Medical College (BJGMC), Pune)

The evolution of lumpy skin disease virus

Bani Jolly
Vinod Scaria

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is a viral disease that predominantly affects cattle. First identified in an outbreak in Zambia in 1929, the disease is caused by the LSD virus (LSDV), a poxvirus of the genus capripoxvirus. Until the 1980s. multiple outbreaks of LSD were confined to the African continent. The first reports of infections outside Africa were in 1989 from Israel. In 2016, LSD was reported from Russia and South-East European nations. In the Indian subcontinent, the disease was initially observed in Bangladesh in 2019, followed by China, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Myanmar.

The first complete genome sequence of LSDV (Neethling strain) was available in 2001 and suggested a large DNA genome. This strain was originally isolated in Kenya in 1958. Adaptation of poxviruses are dominated by genomic mutations, deletions and recombinations.

Recombinant viruses

LSD outbreaks were reported in Russia during 2015-2019. The virus isolated from 2015 and 2016 was similar to the earlier genomes. However, the use of homologous (attenuated) LSDV vaccine in 2016 did not end the outbreak and subsequently vaccine-like isolates were obtained from affected cattle in 2017. By 2018, all field isolates of LSDV in Russia were replaced by viruses bearing genetic signatures of the LSDV vaccine, suggesting that the outbreak of LSD in Russia during 2017-2019 was due to a novel LSDV recombinant variant.

Recombination events are now well catalogued in poxviruses and mediated by the poxvirus DNA polymerases in cells being co-infected by viruses of same or different genus. Recombination of pathogenic and vaccine strains are, therefore, likely when an infected animal is immunised or infection occurs in the pre-immune phase after vaccination.

On the rise: LSD outbreak was reported from Gujarat and Rajasthan in July 2022, which subsequently spread to 11 other States. PTI

Genomes from India

In August 2019, suspected cases of LSD were observed in Odisha. The first laboratory-confirmed outbreak of LSD was subsequently reported in November 2019. Sequences of particular genes of the isolated virus from the 2019 outbreak were genetically similar to strains from Kenya.

In July 2022, large outbreak of LSD was reported from Gujarat and Rajasthan, which subsequently spread to 11 other States with over 80,000 cattle deaths.

In collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry in Rajasthan, CSIR-IGIB reported the whole genome sequences of six isolates of LSDV collected from five affected animals. A total of 177 unique mutations were found compared to the Neethling strain from Kenya. Out of these, 47 were not present in any other global genome sequences of LSDV.

Phylogenetic analysis of the isolates showed that the current virus strain is unrelated to the virus found in India as well as other global genomes of LSDV. The closest genomes to the viral isolates from the current outbreak comprise 12 sequences belonging to other Asian and European countries that were collected from 2012-2022. Further, the presence of an additional mutation in two samples from the same animal and the large number of mutations potentially suggests that LSDV may be able to evolve fast within the host.

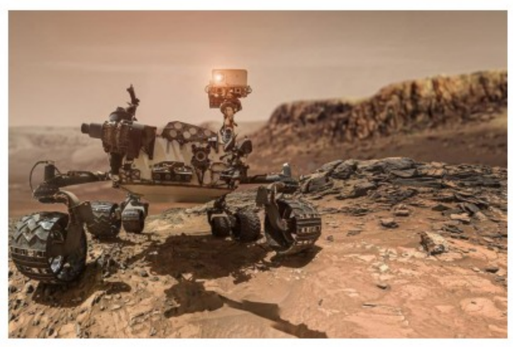
We need to accept that animal and plant health are key to human health, and forms the basis of One Health. As we move towards industrialised agriculturein the era of climate change, the need has never been acute for preparedness with newer and better tools like molecular surveillance and digital technologies to identify and stop emerging pathogens.

(The authors are researchers at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), Delhi. Views expressed are personal)

SNAPSHOTS

Sea turtle poaching declined by 30% in the last decade

The first worldwide estimate of the number of adult sea turtles moved on the black market suggests that 1.1 million of the reptiles were illegally harvested between 1990 and 2020. But poaching is dropping sharply, and most populations worldwide are doing well. But researchers also found that the illegal catch has declined in the past decade – 2010 to 2020 – by nearly 30%, with some exceptions occurring in large, stable, and genetically stable diverse marine turtle populations.



Mars rover Perseverance collects four rock samples

Since July, NASA's Perseverance rover has drilled and collected four slim cores of sedimentary rock, formed in what was once a river delta on Mars. They are the first of this type of rock to be gathered on another world – and scientists are excited because at least two of the cores probably contain organic compounds, which, on Earth, are often associated with living things. If all goes well, the samples will be the first-ever returned from Mars.

COVID antivirals arrive in low- and middle-income countries

A programme to bring oral COVID-19 antivirals to low- and middle-income countries has been launched with an initial donation of 1,00,000 courses of the antiviral drug Paxlovid, to be distributed in nine sub-Saharan African countries and Laos. The COVID Treatment Quick Start Consortium aims to begin treating people in these countries by the end of September. The programme is expected to be expanded to cover more countries, and transition to lower-cost, generic versions of Paxlovid.

Question Corner

Craters on Mars

What clues do the newly formed craters on Mars reveal?

An international team of researchers with NASA's InSight mission recently located four new craters created by impacts on the surface of Mars. Using data from a seismometer and visuals acquired from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, the researchers successfully confirmed the impact locations.

This is the first time that researchers have been able to capture the dynamics of an impact on Mars (*Nature Geoscience*).

The researchers used an instrument on board the InSight – SEIS (Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure) – to estimate the approximate locations, says a University of Maryland release.

These findings show how planetary seismology (the study of quakes and related events such as volcanic eruptions) can be used to identify sources of seismic activity. This may help researchers measure how often new impacts occur in the inner solar system, an observation essential to understanding the population of near-Earth objects such as asteroids or rock fragments that may pose a danger to Earth.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Why is Manipur revising its liquor policy?

How will the partial lifting of the ban impact the exchequer? Will it stop the consumption of adulterated alcohol? Why are activists and womens' groups upset with the move?

Rahul Karmakar

The story so far:

The Manipur Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh on September 20 decided to lift the prohibition partially for generating at least ₹600 crore in annual revenue. The decision did not go down well with organisations such as the Coalition Against Drugs and Alcohol (CADA) and Meira Paibi, a social movement meaning 'women torchbearers', in a State used to the extremist-dictated ban on liquor since 1991.

How did prohibition come about?

Manipur is geographically and psychologically divided between the Imphal Valley and the hills around it. Valley-based extremist groups, primarily the People's Liberation Army, hijacked a mass movement against liquor and imposed a total ban. This led to the Manipur People's Party government headed by R.K. Ranbir Singh enforcing prohibition in the State on April 1, 1991. The sale, brewing and consumption of liquor were subsequently banned for all residents excluding people from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities who have been brewing it traditionally but not commercially. Total prohibition has been in place in two other north-eastern States flanking Manipur – Nagaland since 1989 and Mizoram, which reimposed total prohibition in 2019 after partially lifting a 1997 ban for four years from 2015. There is no prohibition in the other five States of the northeast.

> The prime driver of lifting prohibition is to increase revenue by at least ₹600 crore annually from the sale of liquor. According to the State government, it will also minimise health hazards caused by adulterated liquor

Did Manipur make a similar bid earlier?

Biren Singh's Bharatiya Janata Party-led government is not the first to have pursued partial prohibition since the Manipur Liquor (Prohibition) Act, 1991, came into existence. His predecessor, Okram Ibobi Singh's Congress-led government amended the Act to lift prohibition in five hill districts – Chandel, Churachandpur, Senapati, Tamenglong and Ukhrul – on July 31, 2002. The Ibobi government sought to remove prohibition from the rest of the State to ensure a "steady source of revenue" to lessen the "dependence on Central largesse". It also contended that lifting the ban would allow local Manipuri brews such as 'yu', two varieties of which came to be associated with Assembly constituencies Andro and Sekmai, to be sold across the country. A wave of protests by civil society groups made Ibobi Singh drop the idea. Biren Singh tried to lift prohibition after coming to power in 2017. His bid to bring in the Manipur Liquor Prohibition (Second Amendment) Bill, 2018, met with stiff resistance from civil society.

What prompted the renewed push?

Ahead of the Cabinet decision on September 20, Biren Singh recalled his unsuccessful attempt to lift prohibition during his first term as Chief Minister. Announcing the decision, Tribal Affairs and Hills Development Minister Letpao Haokip said the prime driver of the move was to increase the State's revenue by at least ₹600 crore annually. The State government feels it will also mitigate health hazards caused by the consumption of adulterated liquor. He said prohibition will be lifted from all the district headquarters, including Imphal, tourist destinations, hotels with at least 20-bed lodging facilities and camps of security forces. He insisted that the permit system would be made robust, particularly for liquor transporters. The Cabinet also proposed exploring the possibility of exporting traditionally-brewed liquor. The members of a Cabinet Sub-Committee were sent to Goa a few weeks ago to study the "scientific brewing" of local liquor.

How have the pressure groups reacted?

While extremist groups, pushed beyond the India-Myanmar border, have taken a backseat in Manipur, pressure groups have reacted strongly to lifting the prohibition and legalising the country liquor business. The focus of organisations such as the CADA is more on the local brews than the possible availability of India-made foreign liquor in stores. The CADA's contention is that if country liquor is brewed commercially on a large scale for "export", it could lead to the shortage of some indigenous Manipuri rice varieties and create a famine-like situation. The Meira Paibi, on the other hand, does not want the government to make liquor flow in a State battling drug abuse. But anti-prohibitionists point out that the ban on liquor has not necessarily made Manipur – like Nagaland and Mizoram – a dry State. Alcoholic beverages of all kinds, most likely adulterated, are available at a premium, they said.

How will Putin's mobilisation impact Ukraine?

Why has the Russian President threatened nuclear retaliation? Will the referendums in four breakaway regions in Ukraine on joining the Russian Federation change the course of the conflict? What is the domestic position of Vladimir Putin?

Stanly Johny

The story so far:

On September 21, almost seven months after his war in Ukraine began, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial military mobilisation and dialled up the nuclear threat. Separately, four Russia-backed breakaway regions in Ukraine – Donetsk and Luhansk in the east and Kherson and Zaporizhzhya in the south – are holding referendums on joining Russia. These decisions followed Russia's first major battlefield defeat in Ukraine earlier this month with Mr. Putin's troops forced to retreat from the territories they captured in the Kharkiv Oblast by a lightning Ukrainian counter-offensive.

Why did Putin announce mobilisation?

When Mr. Putin announced his "special military operation" on February 24, after mobilising over 1,50,000 troops on the border, his plan appeared to be making quick territorial gains in Ukraine through a limited war. Russian troops tried to make a sharp thrust into Ukraine from multiple fronts – in the north, towards Kyiv and Kharkiv; in the east, towards Donbas; and in the south, towards Kherson, Zaporizhzhya and Mykolaiv. The Russians made substantial territorial gains in the east and south – the four regions that are holding referendums make up some 15% of Ukraine's landmass – but they had to pay a heavy price for those gains, which themselves fell short of the original objectives. Ukraine's troops, backed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), stopped the Russians on the outskirts of Kyiv, repelled them from Kharkiv and put up a prolonged resistance in the east. Despite the slow progress, Russia had maintained that its operation was going according to plan – until its troops were pushed back from the Kharkiv Oblast.

> While Vladimir Putin backed the referendums, he didn't say if and when Moscow would recognise the results. This leaves a window of opportunity for the peace process which will not stay open forever

The military setback, which strengthened the right-nationalist criticism of the way the war was conducted, forced the Kremlin to come out of the fiction that everything was going as planned. The frontline is now as long as 1,000 km, stretching from the northern edges of the Oskil River to the borders of Mykolaiv in the south, and Russia, which is suffering from supply problems and manpower shortage, finds it difficult to hold the line in the face of Ukrainian counterattacks. Mr. Putin acknowledged the limits of his operation and the challenges his troops face in Ukraine in his address. The reality is that Russia has reached a level where it cannot sustain its military gains without further troop mobilisation. And Mr. Putin has gone for it.

Sources: Institute for the Study of War, Reuters © GRAPHIC NEWS

What is a partial military mobilisation?

Both Mr. Putin and his Defence Minister, Sergei Shoigu, have said that only those who are currently in the reserves and those who have served in the armed forces and have got military training would be conscripted. Mr. Shoigu says Russia can mobilise some 25 million people from the country's vast reserves but the Defence Ministry is planning to call in only 1% of that potential – some 3,00,000 troops. It may not have been an easy decision for Mr. Putin, who is now in a difficult situation – the Generals need more manpower and hardliners are exerting pressure on him to commit more troops and resources. Some have even expressed rare public criticism such as the Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov. On the other side, a general mobilisation, which would need nationwide conscription, could be unpopular. This explains why Mr. Putin delayed the mobilisation so long and hasn't declared war on Ukraine. He can't afford to take further battlefield defeats either. So he struck a balance by opting for a partial mobilisation – which also triggered some protests – immediately after pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine's breakaway regions decided to hold referendums on joining Russia. This move itself is a major escalation. The 3,00,000 troops the Russian Defence Ministry is mobilising is almost twice the size of the original mobilisation Russia made before launching this war.

How will referendums impact the situation?

Of the four regions holding the vote, Russia has recognised Donetsk and Luhansk, which make up the industrial Donbas region, as independent republics. Since the war began, Russia and the separatists have captured almost all of Luhansk and some 65% of Donetsk. They also control parts of Kherson, including the port city that fell in the initial days of the war, and Zaporizhzhya, including the eponymous nuclear plant, Europe's largest. The separatists have been planning to hold the referendums for some time, but Russia's setbacks in Kharkiv seem to have quickened their move, with blessings from Moscow. While there won't be any surprise in the results, what needs to be seen is if and when Moscow recognises the referendums and annexes these territories. If Moscow does it, Ukraine's borders would be redrawn for good and it would require greater commitment from the Kremlin to defend those territories or capture the rest of these regions that are still controlled by Ukrainians. It's not a surprise that both the referendums and Mr. Putin's additional mobilisation were announced simultaneously. They are part of the same strategy.

Is there an exit strategy?

While Mr. Putin's declaration of mobilisation is a major escalation, a careful examination of his speech shows mixed signals. Mr. Putin referred to the March talks between Russia and Ukraine where both sides agreed to further discuss peace proposals, which, according to him, was sabotaged by the U.S. and the U.K. Here, the reference is to the Istanbul talks in which Ukraine had made a proposal to adopt neutrality (give up NATO membership plan) in return for multilateral security guarantees, discuss the status of Donbas with Mr. Putin and agree to a 15-year consultation period for Crimea (during which the status quo would be respected). After the talks, Russia announced its withdrawal from around Kyiv and Kharkiv (city). But then, footage of the Bucha bodies emerged, after which the peace process collapsed. While we don't know the fine print, Mr. Putin's positive reference to the peace process is an indication that the hope for a negotiated settlement is not yet dead. In the speech he said he would use "all available means" (read nuclear weapons) to protect the territorial integrity of Russia – which was a direct threat to Ukraine against attacking Crimea, which Russia had annexed in 2014. While he backed the referendums, he didn't say if and when he would recognise the results. This leaves a window of opportunity for the peace process which will not stay open forever.

If Russia , with additional troops, turns around the course of the war, it could strengthen the hands of the Kremlin, which could go for annexation of the territories, shutting the path to peace. If the mobilisation fails, it would make Mr. Putin's position at home vulnerable, forcing him to take more drastic measures. This means the current phase of the war offers both an opportunity to pursue peace and a slide into dangerous escalation – depending on which path the stakeholders would follow.

What is the SC initiative on capital punishment?

Why has the issue been referred to a five-member Constitution Bench? How will comprehensive guidelines help the sentencing process? What would be the right stage at which mitigating circumstances may be brought to the trial court's notice?

K. Venkataramanan

The story so far:

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has referred to a five-member Constitution Bench the issue of giving meaningful opportunity to those found guilty of a capital offence to present mitigating factors and circumstances so that they can better plead for a life term instead of a death sentence. The reference was made to resolve differences between judgments, mainly on whether it is necessary to hold the hearing on sentencing on a subsequent day and not on the day of the conviction. It is believed that an authoritative verdict on the question may lead to the judicial system making death sentences even rarer than it is now.

What does the law say on sentencing?

The issue arises from the legal requirement that whenever a court records a conviction, it has to hold a separate hearing on the quantum of sentence. Section 235 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) says that after hearing arguments, the judge shall give a judgment; and, "if the accused is convicted, the judge shall hear the accused on the question of sentence and then pass sentence". This process gains significance if the conviction is for an offence that entails either death or life imprisonment. Section 354(3) says that when an offence is punishable with death or imprisonment for life, the judgment shall state the reasons for the sentence awarded, and if the sentence is death, "special reasons" for the sentence.

> There is a view that 'same-day' sentencing of those found guilty of a capital offence is inadequate and violates natural justice as convicts' lawyers do not get enough time to gather mitigating factors

Taken together, these provisions would mean that the sentencing hearing following the conviction of a person for a capital offence is a matter of great importance, as it would decide if the death penalty should be imposed or a life term will be sufficient. This would necessarily entail an inquiry into the nature and gravity of the offence and the circumstances in which it took place. Ever since the Supreme Court, in *Bachan Singh vs State of Punjab* (1980) laid down that the death penalty can be awarded only in the 'rarest of rare cases', the nature of the sentencing hearing has undergone a transformation. Besides the gravity of the crime, the circumstances of the accused also came to be examined to determine the suitability of the death penalty in a given case. Trial courts were required to balance 'aggravating circumstances' and 'mitigating circumstances' to decide the sentence.

What have courts said about the process?

The Supreme Court noted in *Bachan Singh* that Section 235 is based on a recommendation in the 48th Report of the Law Commission, which had said that one of the deficiencies in sentencing policy was the lack of comprehensive information about the characteristics and background of the offender.

The Commission had also suggested that gathering evidence related to the circumstances relevant to sentencing should be encouraged. Given this background, the Supreme Court said the trial court, while deciding the sentence, "should not confine its consideration 'principally' or merely to the circumstances connected with [a] particular crime, but also give due consideration to the circumstances of the criminal." In a series of judgments, the Supreme Court has advocated that the sentencing hearing be done separately, that is, at a future date after conviction. "We think as a general rule the trial courts should after recording the conviction adjourn the matter to a future date and call upon both the prosecution as well as the defence to place the relevant material bearing on the question of sentence before it," it said in a 1989 judgment.

Opinions on this issue have emphasised the need for a separate hearing for sentencing, as well as the need for an effective opportunity to the accused to place mitigating factors before the court. However, in a contradiction of sorts, several judgments have upheld the practice of 'same-day' sentencing. Such a practice does not vitiate the sentence, the courts have ruled.

What are the views on same-day sentencing?

Even though a separate hearing on sentencing is practised in all trials, most judges do not adjourn the case to a future date to go through this. As soon as the verdict of 'guilty' is pronounced, they ask counsel on both sides to argue on sentencing. There is a view that such 'same-day' sentencing is inadequate and violates natural justice as convicts do not get enough time to gather mitigating factors.

A major premise for the current order of referral is that this process is hopelessly tilted against the accused. "While the State is given an opportunity to present aggravating circumstances against the accused throughout the duration of a trial, the accused, on the other hand, is able to produce evidence showing mitigating circumstances in their favour, which may spare them the noose, only after their conviction," the Bench said.

ISTOCKPHOTO

What is expected from the reference?

The Constitution Bench may lay down comprehensive guidelines on the manner in which sentencing decisions can be arrived at. It may make it necessary for the trial court to get to know the accused better before passing the sentence. Going beyond the reports of jail authorities or parole officers, the courts may draft the help of psychologists and behavioural experts. A study into the childhood experiences and upbringing of the accused, mental health history in the family and the likelihood of traumatic past experiences and other social and cultural factors may be mandated to be part of the sentencing process. This may mean that trial courts will be better informed than now, when only basic data such as educational and economic status are ascertained before a sentence is imposed.

The wizard of politics

Ashok Gehlot

The Rajasthan Chief Minister, who could succeed Sonia Gandhi as the Congress president, faces an uphill task of turning around the prospects of a party weakened by defections, divisions and back-to-back electoral defeats

Sandeep Phukan

Is the Congress now turning to Ashok Gehlot for some political magic for its national revival? Mr. Gehlot, 71, is expected to battle it out with Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor for the party's top job in the coming presidential polls, but he is seen as the favourite to succeed Sonia Gandhi.

Born in a family of professional magicians in Jodhpur, Mr. Gehlot's ability to outmanoeuvre his political rivals is quite legendary. Be it the recent Rajya Sabha elections, the rebellion against his government by his former deputy Sachin Pilot or handling the 2017 Gujarat Assembly polls, his political wizardry has been on full display.

In the case of the Rajya Sabha elections this June, the Congress had the numbers to comfortably win two seats but faced a tight contest for the third. The party was a few MLAs short of the majority mark and BJP-backed media baron Subash Chandra stepped up his campaign to make it a "close contest". Mr. Gehlot not only ensured the win of all three nominees of the Congress, but also secured an extra vote from the BJP camp.

"It's only because of Gehlot *ji*'s magic that I won," Congress' third candidate Pramod Tiwari had said soon after his surprise victory.

Jaipur-based journalist-cum-academic Rajan Mahan, who has closely followed Mr. Gehlot's political career, said: "If the Congress is looking for a united Opposition before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, then Mr. Gehlot is the person who can bring together different parties". For the last two governments that Mr. Gehlot put together in Rajasthan, he needed help from parties like the Tribal Party and the Left. "He is someone who can make people of different belief systems co-exist," he added.

This trait came in handy in July 2020 when he faced an unprecedented rebellion from his younger colleague, Mr. Pilot, who was then both his deputy in the government and the chief of the Rajasthan Congress. Upset at being overlooked for the Chief Minister's post in December 2018 when the Congress came to power under his presidency and ignored in the State government, Mr. Pilot, along with 18 MLAs, rebelled against the Chief Minister. The complaints of these MLAs ranged from being unable to get their work done to over-centralisation of power in the Chief Minister's Office.

The sharp politician that Mr. Gehlot is, he alleged it to be 'Operation Lotus' in Rajasthan after the BJP succeeded in toppling the Kamal Nath-led government in Madhya Pradesh three months earlier. The charge was vehemently denied by Mr. Pilot, who insisted that it was about Mr. Gehlot's style of functioning, not about splitting the party. But Mr. Gehlot got the upper hand after the unsuccessful rebellion. Though the Gandhis, especially Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, brokered peace between the two camps, the episode cost Mr. Pilot his positions in the government and the party.

Affable and accessible

Viewed as an affable and accessible politician, Mr. Gehlot, over the years, managed to grow out of the shadows of leaders like Sis Ram Ola, Nawal Kishore Sharma, Shiv Charan Mathur and Parasram Maderna. The soft-spoken politician is also known for his organisational abilities. As the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary, who handled the Gujarat elections, he is credited with the party's impressive performance that had taken the Congress' tally to 77 and brought the BJP's to 99, giving the ruling party a scare.

Originally handpicked by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after taking note of his work as a volunteer to serve the refugees from Bangladesh in 1971, Mr. Gehlot was drafted into the party's student wing, the National Students' Union of India, in Rajasthan. His first electoral contest for a seat in the Assembly in 1977 was unsuccessful. But he bounced back by winning the Jodhpur Lok Sabha seat in 1980, and became a Minister in the Union Government in 1984.

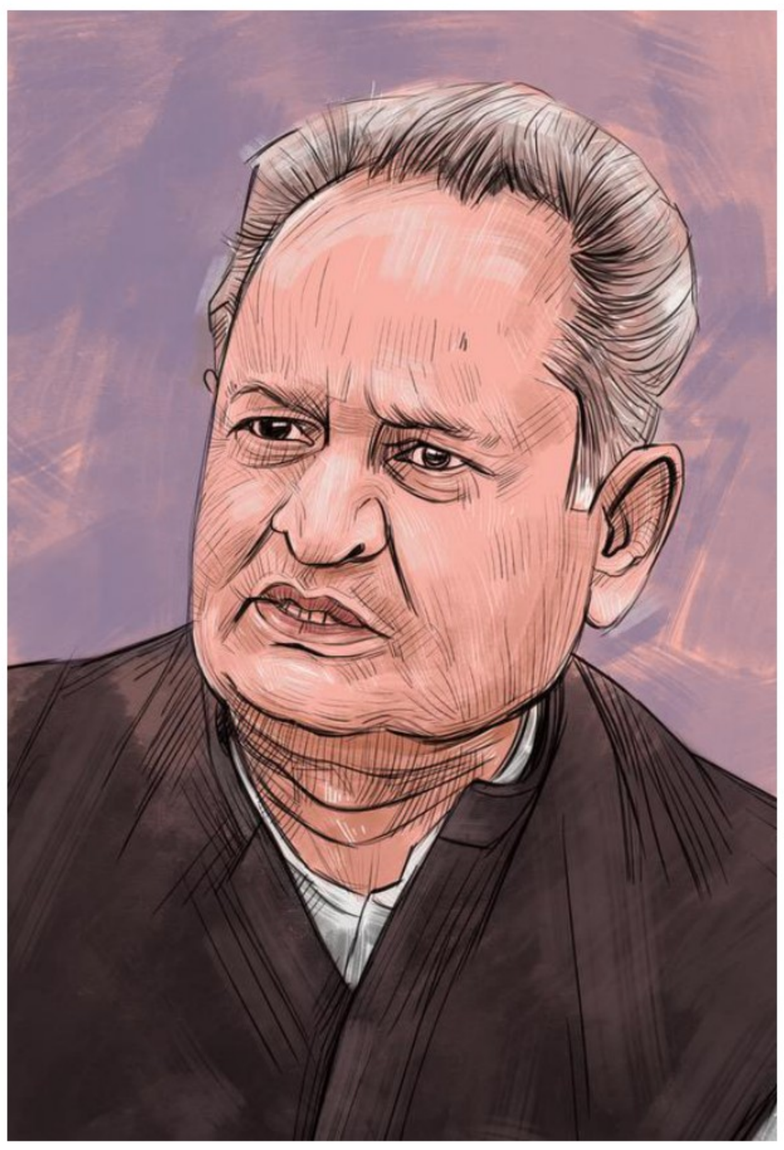


ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Though he lost the next Lok Sabha poll in 1989, he went on to become a Minister in P.V. Narasimha Rao government by winning the Jodhpur seat in 1991. Mr. Gehlot also headed the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) in Rajasthan between 1985 and 1989; and again from 1994 to 1999. He was made the Rajasthan Chief Minister in 1998, in his late 40s, and entered the Assembly by winning a byelection. Since then, Mr. Gehlot has served the State two more terms as the Chief Minister.

"He is a 24x7 politician whose day starts at 7 a.m. in the morning and can go on well past midnight," says journalist Govind Chaturvedi, who worked as Mr. Gehlot's media adviser in his first term. To dispel the notion, held in some quarters that Mr. Gehlot is not a firm administrator, Mr. Chaturvedi recounts an incident from 2002 when the Rajasthan Government, under court instructions, had cleared encroachments from the famed Walled City market of Jaipur. "Bureaucrats advised him not to do it but he told them that he has to face an election and not them. He will call the Army if required but will carry out the court orders," he recalled.

"Gehlot *ji*'s greatest strength is his ability to make people comfortable. Workers go back with the feeling *woh toh hamare jaise hain* [He is like one of us]," Mr. Chaturvedi adds.

This is, perhaps, the reason why people found it uncharacteristic of Mr. Gehlot to use words like "*nakara*" and "*nikamma*" [useless and worthless] for Mr. Pilot after the latter revolted. A few critics, who didn't wish to be named, told *The Hindu* that he is prone to a "coterie culture" and that, at times, influences decision-making. He is also not viewed as a crowd-puller or a vote catcher with impressive oratorical skills. "Once he writes off someone from his book, he doesn't easily change. And that's not the best thing in politics," says a critic.

That there was a debate around "one man one post" after his name came up for the presidential polls, critics argue, goes against the perception of Mr. Gehlot being a Gandhian, who always presents Gandhi diaries to people every new year. "He could have handled the Pilot episode much better. After all, he himself became CM in his 40s. He could have been a little more magnanimous," says the person quoted above.

Uncertainty over leadership

Dr. Naresh Dadich, former Vice Chancellor of Kota Open University, argues that even now, the Congress is losing the perception battle as there's uncertainty over the chief ministership. "If the party wants to make Pilot as the next CM, it should do now and end the uncertainty."

If Mr. Gehlot is elected the next party chief and Mr. Pilot succeeds him as Chief Minister, both leaders will have to press the reset button to set their equations right.

IN FOCUS

- Ashok Gehlot started his political activism in the early 1970s by joining the National Students' Union of India, the students wing of the Congress party
- His first electoral contest for a seat in the Assembly in 1977 was unsuccessful. But he bounced back by winning the Jodhpur Lok Sabha seat in 1980
- He was made the Rajasthan Chief Minister in 1998, in his late 40s, and entered the Assembly by winning a byelection

His own man

Arif Mohammed Khan

The Kerala Governor is in the midst of a controversy after he launched an attack on the State government in a press conference

Ziya Us Salam

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

What's unfolding now in Kerala is merely the latest episode in Arif Mohammed Khan's lifelong story of being his own man, whatever the stakes, whichever the stage. Often loathed, sometimes loved but hard to ignore, Mr. Khan was that way when he entered student politics in Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) in the early 1970s and rose to be the president of the students union. It wasn't any different when he became an MLA in 1977, aged 26. Or a Minister of State during the Rajiv Gandhi Government. It is scarcely any different now when he is into his 70s and occupies the august, if increasingly controversial, office of the Governor of Kerala. He is his own man.

Another matter not everyone shares his view of what's right. Least of all Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. There is little, if any, love lost between the two. There is a reason: Mr. Khan has been publicly critical of the appointment of Mr. Vijayan's private secretary's wife as an Associate professor in Kannur University, where Mr. Khan is the Chancellor. So upset was Mr. Khan that casting custom aside, he called a press conference at Raj Bhawan where he fumed against the elected LDF government.

Unsurprisingly, the LDF government can barely stand him today. It is unlikely to worry Mr. Khan a bit. He is known to express himself even at the risk of social opprobrium. His old friends in AMU and Jamia Millia Islamia, where the Bulandshahr-born young man sought education, remember him as a frank and fearless person who was reasonable and open to debate. He is said to have been a good host who loved his Mughlai food and served it with relish to his guests. Today, they are both surprised and a shade speechless at the ideological and political vicissitudes in Mr. Khan's life.

Indeed, what is happening today in Kerala is not without precedence in Mr. Khan's multi-layered career which has seen him making pit stops over the Bharatiya Kranti Dal (the predecessor of Rashtriya Lok Dal), the Congress, the Janata Dal, the Bahujan Samaj Party before finally finding a bit of an echo to his views in the BJP. His stint in Kerala, his vehement opposition to noted Marxist historian Irfan Habib and constant run-ins with the Kerala Chief Minister are all attributed to his saffron leaning. Never mind the fact that he has won elections, notably from Kanpur and Bahraich on the tickets of non-BJP parties and has lost elections, as in Kaiserganj, on the BJP ticket in 2004.

Clash with clerics

Back in the mid-1980s, a section of Muslim clerics had no love lost for him at the height of the Shah Bano controversy when he risked it all in opposing Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's move to virtually overturn the Supreme Court verdict on maintenance to divorced Muslim women.

Faced with calls for social boycott and possibility of political oblivion, Mr. Khan did not equivocate then. He is not likely do that now too.

Mr. Khan is a redoubtable scholar of Islam with a uniquely his own interpretation of religion. One could question his interpretation of scripture, not his facts. Equally, unlike many clerics, he is open to being corrected. Faizur Rehman, an independent Chennai-based Islamic scholar himself, at one time agreed with him on the Shah Bano case, but later made his disapproval known when Mr. Khan supported the criminalisation of triple talaq following the Shayara Bano verdict. "Our friendship was not affected by my criticism of his views on criminalisation of talaq," Mr. Rehman recalls.

One may disagree with Mr. Khan but there is merit in listening to him, even if he himself could do with being a better listener. In the Shah Bano case, the Muslim clerics had agreed for the husbands to pay a substantial one time alimony to a divorced wife. They later retracted. If the maulanas had listened to him then, India's political trajectory would have been very different.

As for Mr. Khan, he would do well to remember the letter of the rule book he quotes against the Kerala government expects a certain spirit, a certain decorum from the Governor too. It's time to listen to Mr. Khan as much as for him to listen to voices of constitutional propriety.

Faith and politics

Popular Front of India

Behind the façade of a 'neo-social movement', the outfit comprises ultra-religious, radical Muslim men fiercely protective of what they see as tenets of their faith

S. Anandan

On Friday, when the Popular Front of India (PFI) observed a violence-ridden flash hartal in Kerala to protest the nationwide clampdown on over 100 of its top leaders by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), along with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the local police the previous day, the message it wanted to send across was loud and clear.

"Come to the streets face-to-face sans the NIA and the ED if you've got guts," a speaker at a march taken out by the PFI in Ernakulam on the hartal day dared the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), amidst loud cheers.

Such sloganeering against the Hindutva forces and their perceived non-Muslim accomplices is typical of the PFI. Video footage of a minor boy raising communally loaded slogans, as he sat on the shoulders of a man at a 'Save the Republic' rally taken out by the PFI in Kerala's Alappuzha district in May this year, had raised the hackles of the court and the general public.

But it's this belligerent self-assertion and commitment to "defend" the community physically, legally, morally and ideologically that has helped the PFI expand its footprint across some 26 Indian States with considerable clout in at least 15 of them.

The PFI was born in 2006 when the National Development Front (NDF), set up in Kerala's Kozhikode a year after the demolition of the Babri Masjid with some helmsmen of the now-banned Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) on its top council, merged with the Karnataka Forum for Dignity, which was gaining ground among the Muslim youth of coastal Karnataka, and the Manitha Neethi Pasarai in Tamil Nadu.

Built behind the façade of a 'neo-social movement' seeking social and economic justice and political representation for Muslims, Dalits and tribals, the PFI comprises ultra-religious, radical Muslim men fiercely protective of what they see as tenets of their faith. The outfit has been accused on more than one occasion of resorting to violence against what it perceives as blasphemy – the most notorious case in point was the brutal attack on college lecturer T.J. Joseph in 2010 over a question paper prepared by him.

Religious identity

"For the PFI, in contrast to the conventional Muslim parties, religion and religious identity constitute a blueprint for sociopolitical action – and need constant protection from external threats," R. Santhosh and Dayal Paleri of IIT-Madras observed in a paper, published in *Asian Survey* last year. They argue that this mode of religious identity often subscribes to almost similar modes of thinking as the Hindu rightwing.

While it floated the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) as its political arm open to all citizens in 2009, the thrust has always remained on politically and socially mobilising the community around the rights and duties of Muslims in protecting themselves against othering by the Hindutva groups, a kind of 'defensive ethnicisation', as Santhosh and Paleri put it.

This model, while it drew flak from conventional Muslim political parties such as the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), found traction among many Muslim youth for its assertiveness; thrust on educating the minorities on their legal and constitutional rights, even supporting them as in the Hadiya case in which a Hindu girl converted to Islam and married a Muslim youth; and its sustained campaigns for civil rights by brandishing a narrative of victimhood and aligning it with episodes of Islamophobia from around the world.

Observers say the PFI's women's wing, the National Women's Front, was actively involved in appropriating the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests and its students' wing, the Campus Front of India, was in the dock for political violence and murder.

Central agencies such as the ED have accused the PFI of using its feeder organisations such as the Rehab India Foundation, which has been active in social service and disaster relief in many States, as channels of money laundering.

INBRIEF

Amazon sees twofold rise in tier 2 festival sale customers

E-commerce firm Amazon India on Saturday said it had recorded a twofold jump in its customer base from tier 2 and 3 cities during the first 36 hours of its festive season sale.

Tier 2 and 3 cities accounted for 75% of the total customer base of the e-commerce major during its 'Great Indian Festival' sale, an Amazon India spokesperson told PTI.

"75% of the customers came from tier 2 and tier 3 cities. We saw two times more customers from Tier 2 and 3 cities compared to last year," the spokesperson said.

Murugappa group companies complete ₹253-cr. acquisitions

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) and its subsidiary TI Clean Mobility Pvt. Ltd. on Saturday announced the completion of acquisitions of Moshine Electronics Pvt. Ltd. and IPL Tech Electric Pvt. Ltd., respectively, for a total consideration of ₹253 crore.

In July 2022, TII entered into an MoU with Moshine to acquire 20.67 lakh equity shares, representing 76% of the equity at a revised consideration of ₹7.38 crore, against ₹8.64 crore.

TI Clean Mobility acquired 13,836 equity shares of lPL Tech Electric, representing about 65% of the share capital, for an aggregate sum of ₹246 crore.

Sundaram-Clayton buys 50% additional stake in SHUI

Sundaram-Clayton Ltd. (SCL) announced that it had acquired an additional 50.05% stake in Sundaram Holding USA Inc. (SHUI) from Sundaram Auto Components Ltd. (SACL).

Consequent to the above acquisition, Sundaram-Clayton's holding in SHUI increased to 100% and subsequently SHUI's four subsidiaries in the U.S.have also become subsidiaries of SCL, the company said. In a related move, TVS Motor Company said that it had obtained shareholders' approval through postal ballot on September 6 to dispose of the entire shareholding held through SACL in SHUI to SCL for a total sum of ₹317 crore.

Byju's said to pay $230 mn to Blackstone for Aakash deal

Edtech firm Byju's has cleared $230 million payment that was due to private equity investment firm Blackstone for acquiring a majority stake in test preparatory firm Aakash Educational Services, according to sources privy to the development. Byju's had acquired Aakash in April for about $950 million.

"Byju's paid $230 million to Blackstone for acquiring a stake in Aakash," the source told PTI.

While it cleared payments that were due to the founder of Aakash in July, the payment due to Blackstone was deferred based on a mutual agreement. Founders of Aakash and Blackstone continue to hold a minority stake in the firm.

Damage control

Monsoon mayhem: Labourers move sacks of paddy grain in a waterlogged area following heavy rainfall, at a wholesale grain market area in Amritsar in Punjab on Saturday. AFP

'On track to attract $100 bn FDI this year'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

FDI came from 101 countries, invested across 31 Union Territories and States and spans 57 sectors

India is on track to attract $100 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) in the current fiscal on account of economic reforms and ease of doing business, the Centre said on Saturday.

In 2021-22, India received the "highest ever" foreign inflows of $83.6 billion. "This FDI has come from 101 countries, and invested across 31 Union Territories and States and 57 sectors in the country," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

"On the back of economic reforms and Ease of Doing Business in recent years, India is on track to attract $100 billion FDI in the current" fiscal year.

It said that to attract foreign investments, the government had put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein most sectors were open to FDI under the automatic route.

The reform measures include liberalisation of norms and regulations.

FDI equity inflows dipped by 6% to $16.6 billion in April-June period.

BPCL signs pact with Petrobras to diversify crude oil sourcing

Refiner's upstream exploration unit to tap Brazilian fields, plans to invest $1.6 billion to develop oil block BM-SEAL-11 in which it holds 40% interest

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Energy alliance: The pact aims to strengthen future crude oil trade relations between the two companies, says BPCL. REUTERS

State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) on Saturday said it had signed an agreement with Brazilian national oil company Petrobras for sourcing crude oil from the Latin American nation as part of plans to diversify sourcing.

BPCL imports a large volume of crude oil which is turned into fuel such as petrol and diesel at its three oil refineries at Mumbai, Bina in Madhya Pradesh and Kochi in Kerala.

Looking past West Asia

The state-owned refiner, which gets a majority of its supplies from West Asian nations such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia, is looking to diversify its sources of supply in an attempt to cut down reliance on any particular region.

Company chairman and managing director Arun Kumar Singh and Petrobras CEO Caio Paes de Andrade signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Brazil, BPCL said in a statement.

"The signing of the MoU will strengthen future crude oil trade relations between the two companies and explore potential crude import opportunities by BPCL, on a long term basis, especially considering the current geopolitical situations," it said.

Ultra-deep water block

Bharat PetroResources Limited (BPRL), the upstream oil and gas exploration and production subsidiary of BPCL, plans to invest $1.6 billion to develop an oil block in Brazil.

BPRL holds a stake in an ultra-deep water hydrocarbon block in Brazil, owned and operated by Petrobras.

The field development plan and final investment decision is expected to be declared soon, the Indian oil marketing company said without giving details.

Output from 2026-27

On July 27, the Union Cabinet gave approval to the firm to invest an additional $1.6 billion in the Brazilian oil block BM-SEAL-11.

The block is to start production from 2026-27.

BPRL has a 40% stake in the block, with the entire stake devolving on it after the bankruptcy of its original JV partner Videocon. Petrobras is the block's operator with a 60% interest.

Multiple oil discoveries have been made in the block, which is being developed now.

'Uber gearing up for India rollout of bus seat booking facility'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Prabhjeet Singh

In a bid to take ride hailing to the masses, Uber India is gearing up to enable commuters to book a bus seat using the Uber app.

Currently at a pilot stage, the service would be made available by the end of the year with the rollout across multiple cities planned for 2023, a top Uber executive said.

"The expectation is to open a completely new addressable segment for Uber... so that we can serve the common man in a holistic way," Prabhjeet Singh, president, Uber India and South Asia, said in an interview.

He said the experiment with high-capacity vehicles had started recently and the entire technology was being developed in India.

Uber, he said, was trying to address the main concerns of bus commuters which was confidence in getting a seat, ETA (estimated time of arrival) projection, tracking and the comfort of travelling in an air-conditioned vehicle.

"We also discovered the technology that can help in dynamic routing based on supply and demand rather than a bus running on a fixed route. We took the elements of pre-booking, dynamic routing, tracking experience and brought it together for high-capacity vehicles," Mr. Singh said.

The pilots were operating in the Delhi-Gurugram route with Gurugram Municipal Authority for public transport users, some corporates for employee transportation and some fleet owners, wherein a commuter could book directly.

"The eventual game is to be able to take it to multiple cities and serve a much larger segment of the population. I want to serve the next 100 million consumers. This will take us three to five years to be able to keep scaling and take to the length and breadth of India," Mr. Singh said.

A commuter could buy a subscription pass for the service, which would cost a lot less than Uber Go and would help cut congestion.

"We are keen to get to as many cities as possible, especially the top 8 cities, but it requires us to work with local policy makers" with work required to help define the service, he added.

Oil India sees 'healthy' Sept. quarter profit despite windfall tax

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Oil India Ltd. is expecting a "healthy profit" for the quarter ending September 30 despite the levy of a windfall tax on crude sales, Harish Madhav, head of finance at the state-run oil producer, said on Saturday.

India imposed a windfall tax on oil producers in July amid claims the industry was making abnormal profits due to a spike in global crude prices. The tax has been reduced from ₹23,250 a tonne to ₹10,500 per tonne to reflect a fall in global oil prices.

The windfall tax has averaged about $25-$26 per barrel during the quarter, leading to Oil India realising $80 a barrel, Mr. Madhav told a news conference. "This is much better than what we had realised earlier. So we should be able to make a healthy profit," he said.

Sport

A golden finish for Harmeet and Sutirtha

NG TABLE TENNIS

K. Keerthivasan
SURAT

V for victory: Harmeet and Sutirtha, the singles title winners. A.M. FARUQUI

Gujarat's Harmeet Desai and Sutirtha Mukherjee of West Bengal emerged the men's and women's champions at the National Games here on Saturday. The two were also part of the winning team for their States in the team category.

In fact, Sutirtha finished with three gold medals, bagging the women's doubles crown with Ayhika Mukherjee.

The 29-year-old Harmeet exhibited good control and came up with fine attacking play to script a 11-8, 11-4, 11-7, 11-8 victory over Soumyajit Ghosh of Haryana to win the title.

Sutirtha maintained her fine form with a resounding 11-8, 11-7, 11-8, 12-14, 11-9 win over Sreeja Akula of Telangana in the summit clash.

Harmeet and Sutirtha's confidence grew manifold after upsetting the top seeds, G. Sathiyan (Tamil Nadu) and Delhi's Manika Batra respectively earlier in the day.

West Bengal topped the medals tally with eight, including four gold, one silver and three bronze.

Host Gujarat came second with three gold and three bronze medals.

The results:

Men: Final: Harmeet Desai bt Soumyajit Ghosh (WB) 11-8, 11-4, 11-7, 11–8. **Semifinals:** Harmeet bt G. Sathiyan (TN) 11-7, 11-8, 9-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-9; Soumyajit bt Manush Shah (Guj) 8-11, 11-9, 12-10, 11-5, 11-9.

Doubles (final): Jeet Chandra & Ronit Bhanja (WB) bt Arjun Ghosh & Anirban Ghosh (WB) 11-4, 11-3, 11-3.

Women: Final: Sutirtha Mukherjee (WB) bt Sreeja Akula (TS) 11-8, 11-7, 11-8, 12-14, 11-9. **Semifinals:** Sutirtha bt Manika (Del) 11-6, 11-8, 10-12, 11-8, 7-11, 11-6; Sreeja bt Diya (Mah) 11-2, 11-9, 11-9, 5-11, 11-5.

Doubles (final): Sutirtha & Ayhika Mukherjee (WB) bt V. Kushi & Yashaswini Ghorpade (Kar) 11-8, 11-5, 13-11.

Mixed doubles (final): Manush Shah & Krittwika Sinha Roy (Guj) bt F.R. Snehit & Sreeja (TS) 11-8, 11-5, 11-6.

Watch My Stride, who retains his winning form, tipped to take P.V.G. Raju Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old gelding Watch My Stride, who retains his winning form, should repeat the performance in the P.V.G. Raju Memorial Cup, the main event of Sunday's (Sept. 25) races.

1 JATPROLE CUP (DIV. II) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only, 1.15 p.m.: 1. China Town (2) Gaurav Singh 56, 2. Golden Inzio (9) Kuldeep Singh 56, 3. Life Is Good (7) Koushik 56, 4. Power Ranger (11) Nakhat Singh 56, 5. Shubhrak (10) D.S. Deora 56, 6. Alabama (8) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 7. City Of Hustle (6) G. Naresh 54.5, 8. Creative Art (3) Santosh Raj 54.5, 9. God Is Kind (5) Afroz Khan 54.5, 10. Swiss Girl (1) Suraj Narredu 54.5 and 11. Temptations (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5.
1. SWISS GIRL, 2. TEMPTATIONS, 3. POWER RANGER

2 NAWAB SULTAN ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.45: 1. Speaking Of Love (1) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Winning Streak (4) Afroz Khan 58.5, 3. City Cruise (5) Nakhat Singh 57, 4. Shah Of Iran (7) P. Sai Kumar 57, 5. Superstellar (2) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 6. Dillon (3) B. Nikhil 54 and 7. Raisina Hill (6) D.S. Deora 52.5.
1. SPEAKING OF LOVE, 2. WINNING STREAK, 3. CITY CRUISE

3 P.V.G. RAJU MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 2.15: 1. Watch My Stride (2) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Premier Action (4) Afroz Khan 59.5, 3. Kesariya Balam (7) M. Madhu Babu 56.5, 4. Red Snaper (5) Kuldeep Singh 56, 5. Soloist (6) Gaurav Singh 55, 6. Trump Star (1) B.R. Kumar 53.5 and 7. Staridar (3) Santosh Raj 52.5.
1. WATCH MY STRIDE, 2. SOLOIST, 3. PREMIER ACTION

4 S.N. REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.45: 1. DRD (5) Deepak Singh 60.5, 2. Bugsy (1) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57.5, 3. Gregor Clegane (4) Mukesh Kumar 56.5, 4. Bandit King (2) Kiran Naidu 56, 5. City Of Bliss (8) B.R. Kumar 56, 6. Black Onyx (–), 7. Bedford (9) Santosh Raj 54.5, 8. Ambitious Star (7) R.S. Jodha 53.5, 9. Angelita (3) Afroz Khan 53.5 and 10. Vision Of Rose (6) G. Naresh 50.
1. CITY OF BLISS, 2. BEDFORD, 3. DRD

5 JATPROLE CUP (DIV. I) (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only, 3.15: 1. Acrobat (11) Surya Prakash 56, 2. Desert Sultan (10) Gaurav Singh 56, 3. Hugh Capet (1) D.S. Deora 56, 4. Mr. Perfect (8) Mukesh Kumar 56, 5. Protocol (5) Mohit Singh 56, 6. Soorya Vahan (12) Md. Ismail 56, 7. Chica Bonita (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 8. Ella Eldingar (7) Aneel 54.5, 9. N R I Angel (4) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 10. Once I Come (3) Suraj Narredu 54.5, 11. Role Model (6) Nakhat Singh 54.5 and 12. White Roses (2) Akshay Kumar 54.5.
1. ONCE I COME, 2. WHITE ROSES, 3. ACROBAT

6 MAJOR GENERAL NAWAB KHUSRU JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (1,200m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 3.45: 1. Alpine Girl (2) P. Sai Kumar 60, 2. Sweet Melody (9) Gaurav Singh 60, 3. Virangna (11) B.R. Kumar 59.5, 4. Hip Hop (5) R.S. Jodha 58.5, 5. Horse O' War (6) Mukesh Kumar 58, 6. Lifetime (7) Surya Prakash 58, 7. N R I Ruby (3) Santosh Raj 57.5, 8. Space Time (12) Aneel 57.5, 9. Good Tidings (4) Akshay Kumar 56, 10. Sea Of Class (8) Kuldeep Singh 55.5, 11. AR Superior (10) Kiran Naidu 53.5, 12. Paree (13) Rafique Sk. 53.5 and 13. That's My Way (1) Afroz Khan 53.
1. HORSE O' WAR, 2. GOOD TIDINGS, 3. ALPINE GIRL

7 RAJA SAHEB OF CHALLAPALLI MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.15: 1. Rhythm Selection (10) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Cabello (8) P. Sai Kumar 57.5, 3. Mind Reader (6) R.S. Jodha 57.5, 4. Sporting Smile (9) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 5. N R I Blue (4) B.R. Kumar 55, 6. Star Cruise (7) Kuldeep Singh 54.5, 7. Aiza (2) Aneel 54, 8. Above The Law (1) Md. Ismail 53, 9. Baisa (5) D.S. Deora 51 and 10. I Am Superman (3) B. Nikhil 51.
1. N R I BLUE, 2. STAR CRUISE, 3. SPORTING SMILE

8 RAJA SAHEB OF CHALLAPALLI MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.45: 1. Ok Boss (7) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Golden Forza (4) Kuldeep Singh 59.5, 3. Silk (3) Santosh Raj 59.5, 4. Briar Ridge (5) Suraj Narredu 59, 5. Top Diamond (9) Mukesh Kumar 59, 6. Cash Register (8) P. Ajeeth Kumar 55.5, 7. Royal Pal (1) R.S. Jodha 55.5, 8. Blazing Jupiter (6) Aneel 54 and 9. Soorya Kiran (2) Md. Ismail 53.
1. BRIAR RIDGE, 2. CASH REGISTER, 3. OK BOSS
Day's Best: **SPEAKING OF LOVE**
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3. (ii) 3, 4 & 5. (iii) 6, 7 & 8.
Tanala: All races.

Tears in his eyes and Nadal by his side, Federer bids goodbye

I didn't feel the stress so much even though I thought maybe something was going to go, like a calf, but the match was great, says the Swiss legend after playing his final game

I told the guys I'm happy, not sad. It feels great to be here. I enjoyed tying my shoelaces one more time, every thing was the last time

Playing with Rafa and having all the greats here, all the legends, thank you

TENNIS

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Roger Federer described his tennis career as a "perfect journey" despite being denied a fairytale ending with a doubles defeat at the Laver Cup early on Saturday alongside Rafael Nadal.

Old silky self

The 20-time Grand Slam champion showed glimpses of his old silky self in the match against Team World's Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock at London's O2 arena despite a long period of enforced inaction.

Playing alongside long-time friend and rival Nadal, the two former World No. 1s won the first set to the delight of a feverish, partisan crowd, but the Americans rallied to win 4-6, 7-6(2), [11-9].

The result meant Team Europe was locked 2-2 with Team World at the end of the opening day of the Ryder Cup-style event.

Federer has enjoyed a storied rivalry with Spain's Nadal over nearly two decades – together they have won 42 Grand Slam singles titles in a golden era for the men's game.

But in a match that started late on Friday they were on the same side of the net in a fitting farewell for Federer. There was a huge roar and standing ovation as the Swiss great and Nadal came onto the court.

Federer and Nadal seized on their first break-point in the 10th game, winning the first set when Sock netted a backhand. The Americans levelled the match by taking the second set tie-break with ease.

In a nerve-shredding match tie-break, Federer was unable to serve out for the match at 9-8, with Tiafoe and Sock winning the next three points to emerge victorious.

The Swiss was overcome with emotion afterwards, hugging teammate Nadal and waving to the crowd.

"Playing with Rafa on the same team, and having the guys, everybody here, all the legends... thank you," said Federer, who was joined by his parents, wife Mirka and their four children.

Intense moments

Nadal, who was also visibly emotional, said it had been difficult to handle the intensity of the occasion.

"For me, it has been a huge honour to be a part of this amazing moment in the history of our sport, and at the same time a lot of years sharing a lot of things together," said the Spaniard, who then pulled out due to "personal reasons."

Laver Cup results:
Team Europe 2 vs Team World 2 {Casper Ruud bt Jack Sock 6-4, 5-7, [10-7]; Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Diego Schwartzman 6-2, 6-1; Andy Murray lost to Alex de Minaur 7-5, 3-6, [7-10]; Roger Federer & Rafael Nadal lost to Jack Sock & Frances Tiafoe 6-4, 6-7(2), [9-11].

Roger's journey

Year	P	W	L	Win%	Titles	Majors
1998	5	2	3	40	-	
1999	30	13	17	43.3	-	
2000	66	36	30	54.5	-	
2001	70	49	21	70	**1**	
2002	84	61	23	72.6	**3**	
2003	93	77	16	82.8	**7**	**1** (Wimbledon)
2004	81	75	6	92.6	**11**	**3** (Aus Open, Wimbledon, US Open)
2005	85	81	4	95.3	**11**	**2** (Wim, US Open)
2006	97	92	5	94.8	**12**	**3** (Aus Open, Wimbledon, US Open)
2007	78	69	9	88.5	**8**	**3** (Aus Open, Wimbledon, US Open)
2008	83	67	16	80.7	**4**	**1** (US Open)
2009	73	61	12	83.6	**4**	**2** (French Open, Wimbledon)
2010	79	66	13	83.5	**5**	**1** (Aus Open)
2011	76	64	12	84.2	**4**	
2012	87	74	13	85.1	**6**	**1** (Wimbledon)
2013	66	48	18	72.7	**1**	
2014	83	71	12	85.5	**5**	
2015	74	63	11	85.1	**6**	
2016	28	21	7	75	-	
2017	60	55	5	91.7	**7**	**2** (Aus Open, Wim)
2018	61	51	10	83.6	**4**	**1** (Aus Open)
2019	66	55	11	83.3	**4**	
2020	6	5	1	83.3	-	
2021	14	9	5	64.3	-	
Total	**1545**	**1265**	**280**	**81.9**	**103**	**20**

The ball-boy from Basel leaves an undying flame

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

Time flies, careers end, memories linger and eyes turn moist.

Sport isn't immune to this truism which got reiterated when Roger Federer bowed out of tennis with a final ballet in London, with his great rival Rafael Nadal staying in tandem as his doubles partner in the Laver Cup. It was also a moment that again revealed the universal love he commanded, an emotion that rippled across the globe for more than two decades, an undying flame that will continue as long as his fans live.

Awe-inspiring

After generations vanish and the reference points get restricted to old newspaper clippings, frayed posters nibbled by silverfish, YouTube videos and the cold gaze of statistics – he has done remarkably well with 20 Grand Slams – Federer will inspire awe like how Sir Don Bradman does in cricket even if none of us have seen him bat.

Right from the time he ambushed the previous Zen Master at Wimbledon – Pete Sampras – Federer had made it known that he would be part of tennis royalty. In the early years he would serve, charge, volley and slide in a drop shot while the bruised grass at Wimbledon sighed. As years went by baseline duels became the norm across surfaces and he held his own against Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

Overwhelmed: Federer sheds a tear even as Nadal struggles to control his emotions. AP

The free-flowing style, the one-handed backhand and forehands that married aesthetics and geometry, all found an ally in endurance, a trait that held him in good stead when nerve-wracking five-setters often shadowed him in the business end of the Slams.

Enduring allure

Head-to-head against Nadal and Djokovic, Federer may have emerged second-best but there is no mistaking his role as the torch-bearer whom the other two hoped to emulate. Numbers aren't everything in sport. Viv Richards isn't the highest run-getter in Tests and ODIs and yet the respect he commands is jaw-dropping.

The genius-sportsperson has an enduring allure burnished in a halo glowing bright in our collective nostalgia.

Federer did that and along with Serena Williams across the gender-divide, nursed tennis back to health even as European football and F1 were cultivating niche fandom. And for the finicky, obsessed with John McEnroe's defeats at the French Open or Ivan Lendl's meltdowns at Wimbledon, Federer arrived with a Teflon coating as he won at Roland-Garros too even if Wimbledon was the magic carpet upon which his dreams soared.

But Federer was much more than a tennis champion. This was an athlete, who loved his sunshine on court and off it wanted to be the regular guy you met at a coffee shop, who said a hi and gingerly shook hands. Once, his Swiss-mate Stan Wawrinka used an expletive to describe Federer.

It was a moment that summed up admiration and sheer helplessness while Federer offered his famous grin, an expression with its underlying notes of shyness, a baby's gurgle and frothing hot chocolate.

Of a gentler time

Even if he operated during this era of million-dollar brand endorsements, Federer was a throwback to a gentle time of pause and poetry. The ball-boy from Basel, who dreamt big, scaled the stratosphere in his unassuming ways.

And at 41 when he quit the arena he adorned with such finesse, Nadal burst into tears. The love of fans and the respect of peers isn't easily attained and Federer secured that with his blend of magic and humility. There will be none like him.

India will look to ride the momentum in the decider

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

With the Rohit Sharma-led Indian team getting its act right in the truncated match to level the three-match T20I series against Australia at Nagpur on Friday night, the decider at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Sunday should be a thriller by all means.

There can be few better sights in modern cricket than Rohit showcasing his wide repertoire of strokes with such ease.

Good augury

Dinesh Karthik served a reminder that when it comes to finishing off a close contest very few from the Indian team can match him, pace ace Jasprit Bumrah came back to make an impact and left-arm spinner Axar Patel struck consistently to prove to be a wonderful replacement for the injured Ravindra Jadeja in the second match and this should boost India's confidence.

The openers – for both the teams – hold the key on what is expected to be a sporting wicket.

Aussies have captain Aaron Finch and Cameron Green at the top, followed by the dangerous strikers Glenn Maxwell, Tim David and the in-form Matthew Wade. Wade has been so brilliant even under pressure that the Indian bowlers seemed clueless to contain him.

The bowling department should be a matter of concern for Australia though leg-spinner Adam Zampa returned with an impressive three-wicket haul in the second game. But, the way the pacers have been handled by the home batters can put some probing questions about their ability on the Indian pitches.

On the other hand, the home team should be in a comfort zone, with Rohit and K.L. Rahul capable of toying with any bowling attack, followed by the likes of Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya who are all capable of chipping in with contributions which could make a telling impact.

In bowling, Axar Patel has been a delight to watch. That he brushed aside the pressure of coming in for Jadeja and stamped his own authority even in PowerPlay, is a welcome sign for the hosts.

Yuzvendra Chahal was disappointing in the first two games and this should prompt the team-management to consider the seasoned off-spinner R. Ashwin, especially to counter the Wade threat.

Major issue

A major issue for the Indian team is that at least one pace bowler in each match leaked away runs in the final overs.

If it was Bhuvneshwar Kumar in Mohali (he disappointed twice in the recent Asia Cup also), Harshal Patel had a poor day at Nagpur. The brains-trust should be looking for an improved show in this area.

And, for the fans who braved rains and lathi charge to buy tickets for the game, it should be a treat if the weather gods are kind.

The teams (from):
India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (Vice-capt.), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprirt Bumrah and Umesh Yadav.
Australia: Aaron Finch (Capt.), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Kane Richardson, Daniel Sams, Steve Smith, Matthew Wade and Adam Zampa.
Match starts at 7 p.m.

Skipper's delight: Axar's bowling would have pleased Rohit no end. K.R. DEEPAK

Eden Gardens stand to be named after Jhulan

A stand at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata will be named after iconic woman cricketer Jhulan Goswami.

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) took the decision before Jhulan played her last international match at the Lord's on Saturday.

"We are planning to name a stand after Jhulan Goswami at the Eden Gardens. She is a special cricketer. We will approach the Army for necessary permission. We are also planning a special felicitation for her on our annual day," said CAB president Avishek Dalmiya.

Dabang Delhi meets U Mumba in PKL 9 season opener

Defending champion Dabang Delhi KC will take on U Mumba in the opening match of the PKL Season 9 beginning in Bengaluru on October 7.

The opening day will witness two more matches between Bengaluru Bulls and Telugu Titans followed by the tie between Jaipur Pink Panthers and UP Yoddhas.

According to the first-part of the schedule announced on Thursday, the tournament will begin in Bengaluru and will move to Pune on October 27 for the next leg.

The second-part schedule will be released by the end of October to help the 12 teams assess and re-build their competition strategies for the second half of the tournament.

As per the schedule for the first half, Haryana Steelers will open their campaign against Bengal Warriors on October 8 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

Arjun reaches maiden Tour final, faces Carlsen

Arjun Erigaisi set up a title clash with World champion Magnus Carlsen in the $150,000 Julius Baer Generation Cup online rapid chess tournament on Friday. In the semifinals, Arjun blanked Vietnam's Le Quang Liem 2-0 in the tie-break blitz games after the rapid segment ended 2-2. Carlsen ended the

dream run of German youngster Vincent Keymer 3-1. This is Arjun's maiden entry into the final of the Champions Tour. In the Chess.com Global championship, Nihal Sarin upstaged former World champion Vladimir Kramnik 2.5-1.5. Raunak Sadhwani lost 0-3 to Anish Giri in round two.

Singapore holds India to a 1-1 draw in friendly

India, despite a dominating performance, failed to notch up a win, playing out a 1-1 draw against lower-ranked Singapore in the FIFA international friendly match in the Hung Thinh Tournament at Ho Chi Minh City on Saturday.

Ikhsan Fandi put Singapore ahead in the 37th minute when his free-kick from about 25 yards out took a deflection off the Indian wall and beat a diving goalie Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

Singapore's joy lasted jut six minutes as Ashique Kuruniyan equalised in the 43rd minute off an assist from captain Sunil Chhetri.

Jeakson Singh made an interception in the Singapore half, passed the ball to Chhetri, who put Kuruniyan through on goal. Kuruniyan slotted home with a left-footed grounder which beat Singapore goalie and captain Hassan Sunny.

Renuka sizzles as India blanks England; memorable farewell for Jhulan

Smriti and Deepti's half-centuries lift the visitors to a modest score in the third and final ODI; chasing 170 for a consolation victory, the home team falls short by 16 runs as Dean's defiant knock comes to an end in a controversial fashion

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
LONDON

A fairy-tale ending befitting her glorious career marked Jhulan Goswami's last waltz as India Women beat England by 16 runs in the third and final ODI to record their first clean sweep in this country.

That the feat was achieved at Lord's made it doubly satisfying.

End of a great spell: Jhulan bid adieu after two decades of incredible journey. TWITTER/BCCIWOMEN

Paltry score

Sent into bat, India was all out for a paltry 169, and at that point it looked like the visitors may have fallen many runs short of making the match a memorable one for their legendary seamer, who is calling it quits after two decades of incredible service to the game.

However, the Indians managed to eke out a win as Charlie Dean (47) was adjudged run out in controversial fashion, for backing up. Dean, who nearly pulled off a stunning win for the hosts after they were reeling at 65 for seven and then 103 for eight, was out of her ground and Deepti Sharma simply held the ball to remove the bails, leaving the English flabbergasted.

Recently, ICC while modifying the playing conditions, had moved this kind of dismissal from 'unfair play' to 'run out'. The changes would come into effect from Oct. 1.

On expected lines, the day revolved around the 39-year-old warhorse Jhulan who is leaving the scene as women's cricket's highest wicket-taker, having started her journey way back in 2002.

Harmanpreet Kaur, who let Jhulan call the toss in a touching gesture, was unable to hold back her tears, even as the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) planned to name a stand at the Eden gardens after the 'Chakdaha Express'.

She finished with excellent figures of 2/30 in her full quota of 10 overs, including three maiden overs.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Smriti Mandhana b Cross 50 *(79b, 5x4)*, Shafali Verma b Cross 0 *(5b)*, Yastika Bhatia b Cross 0 *(2b)*, Harmanpreet Kaur lbw b Cross 4 *(9b)*, Harleen Deol lbw b Davies 3 *(5b)*, Deepti Sharma (not out) 68 *(106b, 7x4)*, D. Hemalatha c Dean b Ecclestone 2 *(17b)*, Pooja Vastrakar lbw b Dean 22 *(38b, 4x4)*, Jhulan Goswami b Kemp 0 *(1b)*, Renuka Singh c Dunkley b Kemp 0 *(3b)*, Rajeshwari Gayakwad lbw b Ecclestone 0 *(10b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-5, w-13, nb-1): 20; Total (in 45.4 overs): 169.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-2 (Shafali, 1.5 overs), 2-10 (Yastika, 3.1), 3-17 (Harmanpreet, 7.2), 4-29 (Harleen, 8.4), 5-87 (Smriti, 23.2), 6-108 (Hemalatha, 28.3), 7-148 (Pooja, 38.6), 8-149 (Jhulan, 39.5), 9-151 (Renuka, 41.2).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Davies 8-1-35-1, Cross 10-2-26-4, Kemp 7-0-24-2, Dean 9-0-43-1, Ecclestone 8.4-1-27-2, Lamb 3-0-8-0.

ENGLAND

Tammy Beaumont b Renuka 8 *(21b, 1x4)*, Emma Lamb st. Yastika b Renuka 21 *(29b, 4x4)*, Sophia Dunkley b Renuka 7 *(12b, 1x4)*, Alice Capsey c Harleen b Jhulan 5 *(8b)*, Danni Wyatt b Rajeshwari 8 *(4b, 2x4)*, Amy Jones c Harleen b Renuka 28 *(50b, 3x4)*, Sophie Ecclestone c Jhulan b Rajeshwari 0 *(3b)*, Freya Kemp c Harleen b Deepti 5 *(10b)*, Charlie Dean run out 47 *(80b, 5x4)*, Kate Cross b Jhulan 10 *(15b, 1x4)*, Freya Davies (not out) 10 *(29b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (in 43.3 overs): 153.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Lamb, 7.4), 2-34 (Beaumont, 9.3), 3-39 (Capsey, 10.6), 4-43, (Dunkley, 11.4), 5-53 (Wyatt, 12.4), 6-53 (Ecclestone, 14.1), 7-65 (Kemp, 16.6), 8-103 (Jones, 29.4), 9-118 (Cross, 35.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Jhulan 10-3-30-2, Renuka 10-1-29-4, Rajeshwari 10-1-38-2, Deepti 7.3-0-24-1, Hemalatha 5-0-25-0, Pooja 1-0-6-0.

Player-of-the-match: Renuka.

Player-of-the-series: Harmanpreet.

All-rounder Deepti top-scored for the visitors with an unbeaten 68 off 106 balls, while opener Smriti Mandhana was the second highest scorer, making exactly 50 runs in 79 deliveries.

Barring these two, only Pooja Vastrakar (22) could make any substantial contribution.

Jhulan 'one of the greats': ICC

Saluting the legend: The England players applaud as Jhulan walks out for her final innings. REUTERS

Press Trust of India
LONDON

Jhulan Goswami received a guard of honour when she walked out to bat against England in the third and final ODI here on Saturday.

Coming out to bat at No. 9 in the 40th over of the match, the 39-year-old Jhulan saw the English cricketers lining up two sides at the iconic Lord's to pay a tribute to one of women's cricket's biggest ever players.

Touched by the gesture, Jhulan raised her right hand in gratitude to accept the honour by the English players who were seen clapping. There were loud cheers from the spectators as well.

"For over 20 years, Jhulan Goswami has run in, hit a length and blazed a trail. She has bowled more than 10,000 balls in ODI cricket, and she may just have inspired as many young girls to try cricket. Thanks @JhulanG10, you're an inspiration," tweeted England Cricket.

The ICC hailed Jhulan for her "exceptional international career." Its Chief Executive Geoff Allardice praised Jhulan's longevity and said she would be remembered as one of the greats of the game.

"Jhulan has had an incredible career spanning more than two decades, enjoying great success across formats. For a fast bowler to continue for so long is amazing," Allardice said in an ICC release.

Patidar in the right mindset

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

A consistent performer in domestic cricket over the last half-a-decade, Rajat Patidar became a household name this year after his exploits in two IPL matches, a Ranji title-winning century for Madhya Pradesh and two centuries in three First Class matches against New Zealand-A.

"I am just enjoying my batting and not thinking about the future," said Patidar on Saturday on the eve of the second one-dayer against New Zealand-A.

He said that having a clear mindset and working with MP coach Chandrakant Pandit had helped him switch formats smoothly.

"My strength has always been getting into a good position and timing the ball well. The mind is important as there is a difference between formats. You can't go in with a fixed mindset.

"You have to cut down on a few shots in red-ball cricket, which isn't the case with white ball. You have to understand the flow of the game," he said.

LIVE TELECAST

Duleep Trophy: final, day 5, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Laver Cup: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 p.m. onwards

Nations League: Sony Ten 2, Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)

India vs Australia: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.

Pakistan vs England: 4th T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.

West Zone hits back, has South Zone on the mat

S. Dinakar
COIMBATORE

Traditionally, West Zone teams, much like Mumbai, have the habit of crushing their opponents once they claw their way to gain the upper hand.

Bowled out for 270 and conceding a lead of 57, West hit back like champion teams do, setting a mammoth target of 529, and then reducing South to 154 for six.

Only the young and talented opener Rohan Kunnummal fought hard for his 100-ball 93 (14x4, 1x6). He played and left, got behind the line, stroked beautifully in front of the wicket, cover-drove, cut and pulled, all with footwork, balance, timing and heart. He fell playing back to a delivery that kept a shade low from left-arm spinner Shams Mulani.

Indeed, the pendulum swung on day four in the Duleep Trophy final at the Ramakrishna College ground here on Saturday.

West declared at a humongous 585 for four. Young guns Yashasvi Jaiswal (265) and Sarfaraz Khan (127 not out, 178b, 11x4, 2x6) tormented South – 46 minutes after lunch. And its pacers were on target immediately.

Mayank Agarwal attempted to flick left-arm seamer Jaydev Undadkat, played early and the leading edge was pouched at cover.

Skipper Hanuma Vihai nicked a lovely away going

No let up: Sarfaraz notched up an unbeaten century as West set South a huge target. M. PERIASAMY

delivery from Atit Sheth. First innings centurion, B. Indrajith did not last long, falling to Sheth.

Manish Pandey was trapped leg-before by Unadkat.

Earlier, the South bowlers toiled. As many as 139 runs were scored by West from morning till lunch for Jaiswal's wicket – stumped off off-spinner K. Gowtham. By then the run-hungry Mumbaikar had scored 265 (323b, 30x4, 4x6).

Sarfaraz reached his hundred off 158 deliveries; he added 103 in 108 balls with Het Patel (51 not out, 61b, 7x4, 1x6) in an unbroken fifth wicket partnership.

West should complete the formalities soon on Sunday.

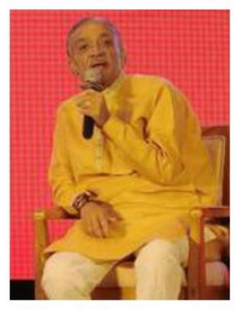
The scores:
West Zone — 1st innings: 270.
South Zone — 1st innings: 327.
West — 2nd innings: Yashasvi Jaiswal st. Bhui b Gowtham 265, Priyank Panchal c Gowtham b Sai Kishore 40, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Gowtham 15, Shreyas Iyer c Ravi Teja b Sai Kishore 71, Sarfaraz Khan (not out) 127, Het Patel (not out) 51; Extras (b-7, lb-1, nb-6, w-2): 16; Total (for four wkts. decl. in 128 overs): 585.
Fall of wickets: 1-110, 2-149, 3-318, 4-482.
South bowling: Thampi 13-1-91-0, Stephen 6-0-27-0, Ravi Teja 13-0-56-0, Gowthan 54-2-235-2, Sai Kishore 39-6-157-2, Kunnummal 1-0-4-0, Mayank 1-0-4-0, Vihari 1-0-3-0.
South — 2nd innings: Rohan Kunnummal b Mulani 93, Mayank Agarwal c Kotian b Unadkat 14, Hanuma Vihari c Het Patel b Sheth 1, B. Indrajith c Mulani b Sheth 4, Manish Pandey lbw b Unadkat 14, Ricky Bhui c Rahane b Mulani 13, R. Sai Kishore (batting) 1, Ravi Teja (batting) 8; Extras (b-1, lb-5) 6; (for six wickets in 40 overs): 154.
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-39, 3-47, 4-91, 5-139, 6-146.
West bowling: Unadkat 9.3-4-26-2, Gaja 9-1-39-0, Sheth 4.3-0-29-2, Kotian 10-3-30-0, Mulani 7-0-24-2.

West Sports Conclave: speakers identify vexing issues in the region

Sports Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The *Sportstar's* first West Conclave here on Saturday saw speakers from different sports disciplines discuss vexing issues in the region and ways to better the playing conditions.

"I am pleased to learn that *Sportstar* West Sports Conclave Focus Gujarat is being organised at Ahmedabad. I am delighted to learn that the Conclave is being held as a precursor to the National Games," was Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel's message.



Airing their views: Shishir Hattangadi, Prof. Ratnakar Shetty and Parthiv Patel (top left); Bhavina Patel (top right); Narhari Amin and Parimal Nathwani (bottom left); Geet Sethi and Christopher Pedra (bottom right) at the Conclave. VIJAY SONEJI

Contract system

Ratnakar Shetty, BCCI's first Chief Administrative Officer, spoke on the need for a contract system for domestic players. "The First Class contracts will happen one day but the modalities of it need to be worked out by players from each State," said Prof. Shetty.

"The international contracts of Indian cricketers began in the Sri Lanka tour of 1997 when someone like Debasis Mohanty was getting the same match fee as Sachin Tendulkar. We met Aravinda de Silva and Arjuna Ranatunga and found out that they had a fixed grade system. We presented that to the BCCI, as a report, on our return. Sachin, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble and I were some of the first to start the negotiations for an annual contract and it got implemented in 2004."

Shishir Hattangadi, former Mumbai player, feels while there is money in the Associations, "differentiating between a player who is young and doing well and one who has played for a very long time is a challenge because there is no yardstick." But former India international Parthiv Patel said "players are being taken care of."

Narhari Amin, Rajya Sabha Member and veteran sports administrator, said, "In 1993 when I took the responsibility of the GCA, it had an 11-crore liability. But when I resigned from the post in 2009, the GCA had a surplus of over 50 crores."

Meanwhile, swimmer Maana Patel, a multiple medal winner at the South Asian Games, believes Gujarat can finish in the 'top five' at the 36th National Games. "I'm participating in five individual events and two relays later, and I'm hoping to win a medal in each of the five events," Maana said.

Manisha Malhotra, the head of sports excellence and security, at JSW Sports, nine-time National badminton champion Aparna Popat and Olympic hockey gold medallist M.M. Somaya were also among the speakers.

Other attendees included former world snooker and billiards champion and founder, Olympic Gold Quest, Geet Sethi, sports administrator and industrialist, Parimal Nathwani, and Ashwani Kumar, the principal secretary to the Gujarat government in sports.

Tasnim Mir and Mukund Parmar were honoured with the Emerging Hero and Hero Unsung Champion awards.

INBRIEF

Marquez takes first pole in three years at Japanese MotoGP

Six-time MotoGP World champion Marc Marquez grabbed pole for the first time in three years at the Japanese Grand Prix in Motegi on Saturday. On a day of heavy rain and lightning, Marquez on his Honda had the leading time of 1:55.214s, ahead of Johann Zarco (0.208s behind) and Brad Binder (0.323s).

Niki at the helm for BCCI U-19 Women's T20 trophy

Niki Prasad will lead Karnataka in the BCCI Under-19 Women's T20 trophy to be held in Hyderabad from October 1 to 8.

The team: Niki Prasad (Capt.), Roshini Kiran, G.R. Prerana, Soumya Verma, Rakshitha Nayaka, Mithila Vinod, Annapurna G. Bhonsale, Savi Surendra, C.J. Nirmitha, Reema Fareed, Shloka Kishore, Vandita K.Rao, Harshitha Shekhar, Reethu R. Gowda, B.G. Tejashwini; coach: Karuna Jain.

Szalai gives Hungary win over Germany in Nations League

A superb first-half stiletto kick from striker Adam Szalai gave Hungary a 1-0 away win over Germany in Leipzing on Friday. The win cemented Hungary's position on top of the group standings, with the unbeaten side only needing a draw in their final match away against Italy to secure top spot. Giacomo Raspadori fired Italy to a 1-0 win over England, which kept alive its hopes of making the final four.

The results: League A: Group 3: In Leipzig: Germany 1 bt Hungary 0 (Szalai 17); Italy 1 (Raspadori 68) bt England 0. **League B: Group 3:** Bosnia and Herzegovina 1 (Demirovic 45+1) bt Montenegro 0; Finland 1 (Pukki 12) drew with Romania 1 (Tanase 52).

League C: Group 4: Bulgaria 5 (Antov 23, Despodov 36, Kirilov 52, Stefanov 55, Petkov 81) bt Gibraltar 1 (Chipolina 26). Georgia 2 (Miovski 35-og, Kvaratskhelia 64) bt North Macedonia 0. **League D: Group 2:** Estonia 2 (Sappinen 45+6-pen, Henri Anier 86) bt Malta 1 (Teuma 51-pen).

Jaiswal — an elegant batter bound for glory

The 20-year-old southpaw demoralises attacks with horizontal bat strokes such as the cut and the pull, indicating that he is a sound backfoot player

DULEEP TROPHY

S. Dinakar
COIMBATORE

Yashasvi Jaiswal is bound for glory. The 20-year-old left-hander not only makes runs, but does so in style.

On a stage as big as the Duleep Trophy final, he demolished the South Zone attack. The onslaught was brutal, yet beautiful. An unbeaten double hundred of rare quality!

When he was finally dismissed on Saturday, he had made 265 off 323 balls.

And, he wears his motto on his forearms. On his right forearm, he has the tattoo 'I trust' that he got done after becoming the youngest player to score a double century in the Vijay Hazare tournament.

And on his left forearm is the tattoo, 'I believe' that celebrated his IPL comeback last season.

Jaiswal demoralises attacks with horizontal bat strokes – the cut and the pull – indicating that he is a sound backfoot player. This also opens up definite India possibilities in overseas campaigns on bouncy tracks.

Appetite for runs

Just look at his First Class record. Before the ongoing game, he had 749 runs from six matches at 74.90. And the opener makes runs in big games.

In the Mumbai-Uttar Pradesh Ranji game last season, he produced innings of 100 and 181 against a potent UP attack.

Indeed, he has a huge appetite for runs. In the Duleep game against North East this season, he came up with a 228. "Everything about about me is cricket," he says. And adds, "I like to play *khadoos* like a Mumbaikar." Indeed, Mumbai's cricketing culture flows through Jaiswal's veins.

Showing his mettle: Jaiswal demolished the South Zone attack with a brutal, yet beautiful onslaught. M. PERIASAMY

Trafalgar takes honours in Maharaja's Cup

RACING

MYSURU: J.E. Mckeown-trained Trafalgar (P.S. Chouhan up) won the Maharaja's Cup, the feature event of the races here on Saturday (Sept 24).

The winner is owned by M/s. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Jayanta Mukhopadhay, Sanjay Datta Gupta, Jeet Banerjee, Achuthan Siddharth, Marthand Singh Mahindra, Shouryabrata Mandal & Sigma Scan Systems Pvt. Ltd.

1. NAINITAL PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over: **CAPITAL GAIN** (J.H. Arul) 1, Regal Force (S. Shareef) 2, Like My Daddy (S. Qureshi) 3 and Smile Around (Vivek) 4. 8-1/2, 1 and Lnk. 1m, 25.19s. ₹37 (w), 13, 33 and 36 (p), SHP: 73, THP: 154, FP: 364, Q: 250, Trinella: 4,821 and 2,583. Favourite: I Can. Owner: Miss. Maria Divya Dominic. Trainer: S. Dominic.

2. MANDAKALLI PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25: **HIGH OPINION** (S. Saqlain) 1, Osibisa (Vivek) 2, Love (Rayan) 3 and Exalted Dream (Naveen K) 4. Not run: Sally's Gift. 4-1/2, 5-3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 37.69s. ₹85 (w), 16, 12 and 11 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 37, FP: 592, Q: 229, Trinella: 1,011 and 583. Favourite: Sekhmet. Owners: M/s. M. Sridhar & Pradeep Kumar R. Trainer: Warren Singh.

3. JAGANMOHANA PALACE PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **WILD EMPEROR** (Srinath) 1, Worldly Wise (Akshay K) 2, Break Away (Janardhan P) 3 and Vijaya Sarathi (Kiran Rai) 4. Not run: Abishola and Sky Princess. 5-3/4, 4 and 1. 1m, 23.54s. ₹16 (w), 10, 11 and 16 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 33, FP: 31, Q: 29, Trinella: 103 and 48. Favourite: Wild Emperor. Owner: Mr. Dayanand Kachuwah. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

4. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY TROPHY (1,200m), rated 60 to 85: **MICHIGAN MELODY** (Hindu S) 1, O Hansini (S. Shareef) 2, Wild Spell (Sai Kiran) 3 and Brunhild (S. Saqlain) 4. 3/4, 1-1/2 and Snk. 1m, 09.84s. ₹31 (w), 15, 14 and 30 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 60, FP: 48, Q: 25, Trinella: 295 and 170. Favourite: O Hansini. Owner: Mr. Satish G. Kundapur. Trainer: Azhar Ali.

5. MAHARAJA'S CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): **TRAFALGAR** (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Knotty Dancer (Suraj) 2, Chashni (S. Shareef) 3 and Havelock Cruise (Sai Kiran) 4. 1-1/4, Nk and 1-3/4. 1m, 34.83s. ₹28 (w), 12, 11 and 21 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 57, FP: 55, Q: 22, Trinella: 242 and 236. Favourite: Knotty Dancer. Owners: M/s. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Jayanta Mukhopadhay, Sanjay Datta Gupta, Jeet Banerjee, Achuthan Siddharth, Marthand Singh Mahindra, Shouryabrata Mandal & Sigma Scan Systems Pvt Ltd. Trainer: J.E. Mckeown.

6. COORG PLATE (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: **JABBAR** (S. Saqlain) 1, Spiritual Force (Sai Kiran) 2, Vijaya Miracle (Angad) 3 and D Fire (Shreyas S) 4. 2-1/2, 1-3/4 and Lnk. 1m, 05.16s. ₹16 (w), 11, 16 and 21 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 36, FP: 96, Q: 58, Trinella: 210 and 106, Exacta: 1,609 and 345. Favourite: Jabbar. Owner and trainer: Mr. M. Bobby.

7. JAGANMOHANA PALACE PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **KNOTTY WOODS** (Nazerul) 1, Kushaq (J.H. Arul) 2, Braxton (S. Saqlain) 3 and Lucky One (Hasib A) 4. Not run: Measure Of Time and Windy City. 2-1/4, 1 and 1-1/2. 1m, 24.56s. ₹24 (w), 11, 17 and 12 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 37, FP: 84, Q: 109, Trinella: 273 and 86, Exacta: 3,169 (carried over). Favourite: Knotty Woods. Owners: M/s. K. Kamesh & Srikanth Badruka. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar. Jackpot: ₹648 (309 tkts..; Runner-up: 95 (900 tkts.); Treble (i): 1,239 (one tkt.); (ii): 62 (38 tkts.).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

FCBU posts win

FCBU defeated BIFA 2-0 in an under-18 category match of the KSFA Youth Premier League football here on Saturday.

The results: U-18: FCBU 2 (Gurveer Singh 10, Thang Jalan Haokip 75) bt BIFA 0; Shooterz 0 drew with NEYFC 0; Rebels FC 1 (Bhumeshwor Mayanglambam 62) drew with BYFL 1 (Parth Santhosh Hawle 10)

U-11: Bangalore City FC 3 (Kanav Kutty 18, Tarun Sunil 39, Ngamginsem Gugun Lotgem 44) bt Play Mart 0; Ronaldo FC 5 (Neil Adrian 6, 8, 9, 16, 20) bt FCBU 1 (Hothur Mohammed Rayan 41).

Young Blues Elite 2 (Affan Syed Mudasir 15, Liam Christopher Lamb 47) bt Impetus FA 1 (A. Rolaxman 34); Roots FS 3 (Zayyed 8, 33, 35) bt Conscient 1 (K. Atharava 40).

Kemp FC runs riot against Roots FC

Kemp FC thrashed Roots FC 7-1 in the KSFA Women's League football here on Saturday.

The results: Kemp FC 7 (Lalnunsiami 16, 22, 55, Treia Menon 40, Lalbiak Diki 63, Lalrimuani 79, 90+1) bt Roots FC 1 (Iniya Selvakumari 70).

Nikshep-Madhwin combine triumphs

B.R Nikshep of Karnataka and Madhwin Kamath of Gujarat defeated Prithvi Sekar of Tamil Nadu and Rashien Samuel of Karnataka 4-6, 6-3, [10-5] to win the doubles title at the AITA men's National-ranking tennis tournament held in Hyderabad on Friday.

Shlok hammers SASA

Shlok HC blanked SASA 8-0 in the BHA President's Cup five-a-side hockey tournament here on Saturday.

Other results: Southern Alpha SA bt Bengaluru Blues 5-2; Southern Alpha SA bt Coorg Direwolves 7-3; Shlok HC bt Warriors SC 7-3; Shlok HC bt Coorg Direwolves 8-3; Warriors SC bt Southern Alpha SA 10-3; JFHA bt Rainbow 6-2; Falcon bt East India 7-1; Warrior SC bt Coorg Direwolves 10-1.

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